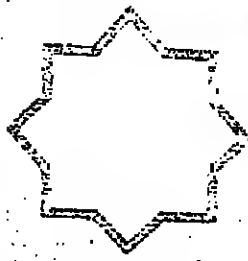


The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star



Le roi Hussein en médiateur pour l'accord d'Hebron

Voir page 10

HAYAT AMMAN SUITES HOTEL
Restaurant

- Ramadan Evenings until Subhour time
- Iftar Meals
- Hubble Bubble (Nargile)
- Ramadan Drinks

TLA ALALI
Tel. 837175, 837172

AMMAN, 16-22 JANUARY 1997, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 36, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Peace process resumes as Arafat clinches Hebron deal

By Rebecca Tronson and Marjorie Miller
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

CROSSING, Gaza Strip—After months of bitter wrangling, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met before dawn Wednesday to conclude a long-awaited agreement for Israel to pull back its troops from most of Hebron and turn the occupied West Bank city over to Palestinian rule.



Arafat and Netanyahu meet, Tuesday, hours before they wrapped up negotiations that led to the Hebron deal early Wednesday

Netanyahu and Arafat, who waded through deep mutual distrust to wrap up the US-brokered accord, also agreed to an accompanying American letter setting a timetable for further Israeli pull-backs in the West Bank and promising to resume final negotiations on outstanding issues.

The Hebron agreement—the first concrete step in peace-making between Netanyahu's Likud government and the Palestinians—puts about 80 percent of Hebron under control of Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Hebron's Jewish enclaves, with about 450 residents, and the Ibrahim Mosque, a site holy to Muslims and Jews, will remain under control of the Israeli army.

The accord, initiated by the chief negotiators for the two sides—Saeb Erekat for the Palestinians and Dan Shomron for the Israelis—was being discussed and expected to be approved late Wednesday. Israeli officials predict it will be ratified by a narrow majority of the

right-wing and religious ministers. Israeli officials said the agreement then most likely would be put before a special session of parliament Thursday. Arafat and Netanyahu then must sign the agreement. The redeployment could begin as early as Thursday night. The Israeli army have said a pull-back could occur hours after an order is given.

In Washington, President Clinton called the latest accord as "a step forward to a lasting Middle East Peace." He praised all who had helped negotiate it and said, "Once again the forces of peace have prevailed over a history of division."

Clinton noted the accord is not an end in itself. "This is not a time to relax," Clinton said. "Bringing its words to life will require active and continued cooperation."

US mediator Dennis Ross, meantime, called the Hebron accord "fair and balanced" and said the American letter provided a map for the future.

Ross said the two leaders, after they finished their work, telephoned to thank Clinton. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein for their mediation.

But neither Netanyahu nor Arafat addressed reporters early Wednesday. The discomfort each feels in the other's presence was visible in their unsmiling faces and perfunctory handshakes.

Wednesday's agreement, hammered out in months of roller-coaster negotiations, contains few, if any, significant changes from the interim peace accord signed by the Palestinians and the previous, Labor party government in September 1995.

Under the interim accord, Israel



King Hussein is greeted by President Arafat in Gaza Sunday

King's rescue mission puts peace process back on track

Special to The Star

THE SUCCESSFUL conclusion of the Hebron deal early yesterday could not have taken place if it was not for the last minute diplomatic rescue mission staged by His Majesty King Hussein Sunday to save deadlocked talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The unexpected intervention of the King came as Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's special envoy, announced an empty-handed departure from the region—and then, for the second time in less than three months, decided not to fly home after all.

Instead, Ross, the US special Middle East coordinator, huddled until nearly midnight with the King and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. The King announced that "a fresh beginning" for the talks has been scored when he emerged Sunday night.

Israelis and Palestinians have negotiated intensively for more than three months to complete their first accord under Netanyahu, which amounts to an implementation plan for Israel's previous agreement to withdraw its army from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

The deal has been stuck for some weeks on Arafat's suspicion that Netanyahu will stall or renege on subsequent Israeli withdrawals from rural

areas of the West Bank. Before flying to Tel Aviv, King Hussein spent seven hours with Arafat in Gaza City. The two leaders embraced and kissed, and the King's visit to Gaza—among the first by any head of state—buoyed the Palestinian leader.

Included in their long meeting were telephone conversations with Ross, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, then accompanied King Hussein to Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu, like Arafat, has had his ups and downs with the Jordanian leadership. The relationship with King Hussein was Netanyahu's warmest in the Arab world when he started his term as prime minister, but it has grown frosty in recent months.

But just as in Gaza City, King Hussein arrived warmly in Tel Aviv, smiling and pressing long handshakes with the Israeli premier.

"His majesty has come with a number of things to impart to us," Netanyahu said as he met the King at the gate of the military complex. "He has been a great friend of Israel and a great friend of peace."

Afterward, Netanyahu said the talks had made "considerable progress on topics which are not related to Hebron."

Iraqi-Jordanian talks intensify for renewal of trade protocol

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

AFTER SOME delay, the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee is expected to meet in Baghdad next week. A ministerial economic delegation arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday headed by Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb and Minister of Energy Dr. Hashem Dabbas and other senior officials.

This meeting was scheduled last Monday but was postponed due to differences, described as technical, concerning the renewal of the trade protocol between Jordan and Iraq for 1997 and the volume of Iraqi crude oil exports to Jordan. While Jordan is seeking to increase its oil imports from Iraq by seven percent, Iraq is demanding an increase in the size of the trade protocol that was lowered by Jordan last year from \$400 million to \$250 million.

Earlier this week, uncon-



Kabarti and Aziz: Finding common grounds

firmed news reports said that Iraq has decided to sell its crude oil to Jordan at spot prices. The reports added that such a decision has been conveyed during Dr. Dabbas's visit

to Iraq two weeks ago. But the minister denied these reports and said that Jordan's imports of oil and its by-products presently stand at 12,000 tons daily, half of which is sold to

Jordan at the preferential price of \$15.25 per barrel, while the spot market price currently reaches \$25 per barrel.

Jordanian economist Dr. Fahd Al Fanek told The Star that he does not believe Iraq will sell oil to Jordan at market prices but may be asking for a slightly higher price than the \$15.25 one for this year. He expected negotiations to settle at around \$18 per barrel, costing the Jordanian Treasury an additional JD 6 to JD 7 million.

On Monday Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kaburli to discuss bilateral issues. He told reporters that Iraq was still committed to supplying Jordan with free oil.

Mr. Aziz said that since 1990, Iraq had been supplying Jordan with 35,000 barrels of oil per day free of charge under a grant from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. However, in 1993 and upon the consent of

both sides, Iraq continued to supply Jordan with oil shipments of which 50 percent were free of charge and 50 percent was sold at \$15 per barrel, while the spot price was \$20.

Mr. Aziz said that because of the effects of UN sanctions imposed on Iraq, it was forced to import commodities from Jordan in return for its free oil exports to Jordan. He said while Jordan considered the value of these commodities as debts, Iraq did not. But he

Continued on page 2

High Court struggles to find answers in Clinton vs. Jones

By David G. Savage
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court justices ended a frustrating hour-long argument Monday in the case of Bill Clinton vs. Paula Jones sounding divided and uncertain over whether her sexual harassment lawsuit should go forward while he remains in office.

The case poses novel and difficult legal questions: Should the president be entirely immune from all civil suits while in office or forced to answer to all such suits, just like any other citizen? Or should the rule be somewhere in between, perhaps allowing some pre-trial depositions but blocking an actual trial?

Adopting either extreme position—total immunity or none—obviously troubled the justices, yet the lawyers for each side offered little help in laying out a reasonable middle

ground. Wednesday, the high court will meet privately to discuss the case, vote on the outcome and begin the task of writing a majority opinion.

The ruling, due by the end of June, is especially hard to forecast, but the most likely outcome remains some sort of compromise.

On the one hand, a majority of the justices seem to indicate they did not want to give a trial judge the power to order the president to appear in a courtroom or to sit for a deposition.

On the other hand, they did not see why some "third-party witnesses," such as the Arkansas state troopers in this case, could not be ordered to give depositions under oath.

Such an approach, if adopted by the court, could prove politically damaging for Clinton.

Lawyers for Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who alleges that then-Gov. Clinton crudely propositioned her, want to take testimony

from witnesses who were in the Little Rock hotel that day in May 1991.

They include state trooper Danny Ferguson, who is said to have arrived with Clinton and later escorted the young woman to a private room on an upper floor.

They also want to take statements from other troopers who traveled with Clinton while he was governor.

Since 1994, Jones' attorneys have been barred from taking depositions, gathering hotel records or undertaking any other "discovery" in the case.

Lawyers for Clinton, claiming a "temporary immunity" for the chief executive, have argued no suit against a president may proceed until he leaves office.

"We're saying, 'Let's give Ms. Jones her day in court, just not now,'" Robert S. Bennett, Clinton's private attorney, told the justices. "The president of



Jones

the United States should not be taken away from his constitutional duties" because of a lawsuit, he said.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wondered if this immunity applied to all lawsuits.

"Suppose it was a child custody case," she said. If a future

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

THE OCTOBER 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty divided the country into two camps: those who support the peace option and those who stand against it. Two years later, the mood is changing again. The same treaty is reuniting the country, as peace supporters are realizing that their hopes for the fruits of prosperity and justice have not been fulfilled. On the contrary there is a growing belief that the treaty has only served Israeli interests and widened its hegemony over the region.

Peace activists are now rethinking their old positions. "...for the sake of the future of the coming generations, I voted yes to the peace treaty," Lower House deputy Dr. Nazeem Ammarin told the House's session in October 1994. Two years and three months later, a 180-degree U-turn has taken place. "I am sorry for the day I voted for the peace treaty," an embarrassed Ammarin told the 4000-strong protestors of the Israeli trade fair in Amman last week.

Peace opponents, who have been ineffective in the past few years, have now found inspiration in the lack of progress on the peace tracks. They succeeded in mobilizing an unprecedented mass protest against an Israeli trade fair last week that sent a strong signal that opposition to normalization with Israel is growing stronger.

The protest, which was the largest in Amman since the 1991 Gulf War, succeeded in recruiting the country's popular and political organizations. It included pro-peace treaty activists and representatives from over 20 political parties. The demonstration included legislators, trade unionists, professional associations, members of women organizations and a number of prominent pre-establishment figures.

"The protest was a development in the reaction of the man in the street," said Toujan Faisal, the only female legislator in the Lower House. "At last Jordanians realized that the national interest is in jeopardy because of the peace treaty," she added. However, there are still great challenges. "The issue now is how to consolidate what has been achieved," she continued.

Observers believe that the protest part of a national program to confront Likudist plans and the fanaticism of orthodox Jewish parties. They believe that these parties are now redrawing their old designs for the region.

The old concept of "Jordan is Palestine" is being reactivated by Likud officials, they argue.

"The Israeli enemy is only implementing its Zionist theories," said Yaqoub Zayaden, the general secretary of the Jordanian Communist Party. "We



Obiedat

are cooperating with the Egyptian opposition parties, to adopt their means in opposing normalization."

Middle-of-the-road parties have also jumped on the anti-normalization band wagon, because they feel that there is a national demand to forge a strong front to re-adjust the government's policy and to force Jordanian diplomacy to adopt a decisive stand like those of other Arab states.

"We are peace seekers, but to talk about peace with Netanyahu is a mockery," said Anis Al Muasher, the general secretary of the Wa'd Party. "We should not let Netanyahu reap the fruits of his hostile policies. We call upon Arab leaders and people to unite to protect our

resources and to liberate Jerusalem," added the pro-peace former minister.

Despite its opening, the Israeli trade fair failed to achieve its goals in recruiting Jordanian commercial agents. Only 40 Israeli companies, out of 200, turned up at the expo.

"It was a great victory," said Laith Shehaila, a vocal opposition activist recently released from jail on the King's order. In the past, Shehaila added, the "authorities used to ban such gatherings. Now, people move as a pressure group to confront this policy."

The anti-normalization front is being led by former prime minister and intelligence chief Ahmad Obiedat.

The same man contributed to the growth of democracy in a big way. In 1990 Mr. Obiedat headed the Royal Commission to draw up the National Charter. The commission had representatives from different political, economic and popular sectors.

Today Mr. Obiedat continues to be critical of the treaty and the peace negotiations.

Early this month, he launched a strong attack on some official figures, accusing them of serving as "agents for Israeli interests in Jordan and the region," and he promised to expose them to the public.

Mr. Obiedat was described by Shehaila as "a great gain to the opposition." Shehaila, however, in a public lecture in Karak, attacked the National Charter

Continued on page 2

World Report

Carlo Muttoni

When on bike around the world

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

IT IS not an attempt to go around the world in 80 days, nor is it a publicity stunt but rather a long and personal journey of a cosmopolitan man seeking to explore the ever changing layers of life. It is like being an American driving along the highway and hooked to the Rock-n-Roll tunes, or a Mexican fighting with Zapatista rebels or an Indian herbalist curing illnesses.

This is what Mr Carlo Muttoni, an Italian in his mid-thirties, had in mind before embarking on a continental journey on his motorbike after finding out that his systematic life in Milan is no match to his great expectations.

A man with an adventurous soul like Muttoni is never satisfied with what he has achieved. In life there is always new things to look for, new people to meet with and new thoughts and beliefs to experience. Muttoni can be simply described as someone who fell in love with the whole world. "I'm a voracious reader of books relating the story of great poets and explorers who led exceptional lives and that was the incentive for me to start this journey," Muttoni told *The Star*.

Having a spacious house, a brand new car, a good job and a beautiful girlfriend could not diverge Muttoni from the course he decided for himself. He insisted in spite of all these temptations to go and see how people live and deal with each other around the world.

The journey started from America "to where I moved and bought a motorcycle in New York." The logistics of the journey were consummated by Muttoni who started the engine of his bike in June 1993. Going through Canada, the motorcyclist continued onto the frozen lands of Alaska on the west coast of America. But

Muttoni, it seems, could not stand the chilly weather and escaped to the south. This time he went through Mexico, Central America and from there to Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina in South America.

"When I first started my trip it was out of curiosity and then the human dimension became the most important part of my journey," he said. It is evident that Muttoni sought more than seeing people working, shopping or playing. It was, as he said, an attempt to get closer to those people and pretend that you belong to them. In this respect, Muttoni found in working in the countries he visited an opportunity to have more knowledge about people. "When you work at a certain place you work shoulder to shoulder with people, if you stay away from that you are just a tourist," he added.

However, the work provided Muttoni with much-needed money to enable him to proceed with a journey that has cost him so far \$60,000. "I worked in Argentina for about eight months. In New Zealand I worked as a cowboy and in Sydney as a carpenter."

The journey was scheduled to last two years but because Muttoni had to work in some countries to raise spending money, it was extended beyond that.

Temptations for Muttoni to stay at one of the countries he visited grew each day. Loving a girl might be a problem for someone who has such an ambitious goal. "I fell crazily in love with a woman in Buenos Aires and I was torn between staying there and relinquishing my dream of seeing the world. Also in Sydney a woman suggested that I work there and marry her but I refused," Muttoni added that "because you go through dangerous situations you can not take a woman with you."

He continued his journey, proceeding

to Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia. After Australia he went to India and from there to Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Syria and finally to Jordan.

From the west to the east, Muttoni has been introduced to completely different cultures even on the same continent. For example the people of America and Europe "who have access to information about the whole world are not as curious as those of Central America," Muttoni had to experience such diversity in his journey. "In a village in Central America people did not even know where Italy was," he said.

Muttoni believes that reading about different people and cultures is not enough. "As Edward Said said in his book *Orientalism*, the writers have two choices either to tell the truth or tell a bunch of lies to meet the expectations of their readers."

A journey such as his entailed different types of risks and dangers. It can be a bike crash just like what happened to Muttoni after three weeks from his departure when he broke his arm and injured his head. "I had to move the bike for 200 kilometers to the nearest station where it took one month to get the bike repaired. I drove afterwards with a plaster cast on my arm," he said. But escaping the rage of rebels in Mexico in October 1993 is another story. "When the rebels saw the US license plate on my



Muttoni on his bike in Amman

hike they called me an enemy. It was not until an old man, whom I considered an angel, helped me escape at night. In one of Pakistan's villages people started throwing stones at me."

Documenting or writing about exotic and exceptional events is part and parcel of any traveller's journey. These articles and documents are authentic sources written by someone who had intimate relations with people he visited.

"I had my lap-top with me on the jour-

ney, whenever I wanted to send an article to an Italian magazine I used to connect the computer with the battery of the bike and start writing," Muttoni continued.

After Jordan Muttoni has Africa on his agenda. No doubt more adventures await him in the black continent. "The more you travel, the more you open doors and different questions pop up, that is why I try to travel with simplicity of mind and listen more."

Iraqi-Jordanian talks intensify

Continued from page 1

added that his country was ready to honor its commitments and repay these debts and it will continue to sell its oil to Jordan at discount prices and purchase of Jordanian products.

There is confusion about the real size of Iraqi debts to Jordan. Some estimates put them at \$400 million while others go as high as \$1.4 billion.

Mr Ahmed Al Nimri, an economic expert told *The Star* that "these debts do not exceed \$800 million. There is nothing to worry about as long as we are able to renew our protocol with Iraq."

Al Nimri stressed the importance to develop Jordanian-Iraqi economic ties, especially as Iraq prepares to remove international sanctions.

"The Iraqi demand to increase the price of its oil exports to Jordan is legitimate," Al Nimri said. "We were buying the crude at cheap prices while more than half is given to us free of charge. Iraq has the right to sell its oil at any price which serves its economy."

Some sources revealed that Iraqi officials are calling for a higher oil price in order to

increase the ceiling of the trade protocol to \$300 million. This protocol which was \$400 million in 1995 was cut to \$220 million and Iraq is seeking to increase it to enable it to pay part of its debts.

According to non-official figures Jordan's needs of crude oil during this year are estimated at 3,805,000 tons, 100,000 tons of liquefied natural gas, 115,000 tons of diesel and 800,000 tons of fuel oil.

The volume of Jordanian exports to Iraq has declined last year due to the reduction in the trade protocol.

However, most Jordanian businessmen and exporters stress the need to cement economic ties with Iraq, which for long has been Jordan's main trading partner.

"Iraq has been a major market for Jordanian exports for the last 15 years," Dr Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, a former government minister, said.

Lately, the Iraqi government decided to buy Jordanian pharmaceuticals at \$40-50 million with effect from this month. Earlier contracts of \$80 million were concluded between Iraqi officials and Jordanian companies to provide Iraq with foodstuffs and vegetable oil.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Nonetheless, analysts considered such sums as very low compared with transactions which Iraq had signed with Turkey and Dubai.

Peace process resumes as Arafat clinches Hebron deal

Continued from page 1

rael was to have pulled out of Hebron last March. But former Prime Minister Shimon Peres delayed the redeployment after four suicide bombings by Islamic extremists opposed to the accord less than 60 days in Israel. The redeployment was further delayed by Israeli national elections in May that brought Netanyahu to power on a promise of moving more slowly in peacemaking and later by an outburst of violence in Jerusalem.

US negotiators said the Hebron agreement adds details to general guidelines laid out in the interim accord and restates both sides' obligations. This latest document effectively shows how the interim accord would be put in effect. "There are no new elements," said a US official. "Each side wanted the other to recommit to reaffirm their commitment to implement what they already had agreed to."

Still, both sides have sought to portray the new deal as a victory: extremists from each side were certain to reject it as a dangerous compromise.

Jewish extremists do not want the Palestinians to have any authority in a city that they say has belonged to Jews for more than 3,500 years. They say they will be insufficiently protected under this agreement and that Arab terrorists will kill them, just as they killed 67 Jewish residents of Hebron in riots in 1992. Palestinian radicals, meanwhile, want the Jewish settlers evicted and the Israeli military ousted from the Palestinian city that Israel captured from Jordan in 1967.

Netanyahu, who promised in his election campaign to provide Israelis "peace with security," has said the new accord will give greater protection to Hebron's Jewish settlers. He has pointed to new limits on Palestinian weapons and ap-

proval of joint patrols on hills overlooking the Jewish enclaves.

The Palestinians, who for weeks had refused to consider any changes to existing agreements, have sought to minimize the adjustments made. They emphasized their defeat of Israel's attempt to specify the right of its soldiers to re-enter Palestinian-controlled territory at will.

The two sides and their US negotiators met at this stark border crossing at 12:30 am Wednesday—a normal time for work for Arafat—and spent about two hours hammering out the final, stubborn details. Both sides had said the terms for the Hebron redeployment were wrapped up weeks ago and that they had been arguing in recent days over commitments beyond Hebron.

The principle changes in the accord stem from the combat between Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers last September in riots that erupted after Netanyahu approved the midnight opening of a tunnel door in Jerusalem's disputed Old City. More than 75 people died and hundreds were wounded in those clashes. Israel wanted to reduce the risk to Israeli soldiers of another such firefight.

The changes include: ■ Buffer zones. An "adjacent zone" of several hundred yards will be created between Jewish enclaves and Arab neighborhoods. Palestinian police may enter only in mobile units with Israeli soldiers. There were no buffer zones in the interim agreement.

■ Weapons limits. Palestinian police patrolling with Israelis may carry submachine guns, while the Israelis will carry longer-range M-16 semi-automatic rifles. No such restrictions existed before.

■ Building restrictions. There will be height limits on Palestinian buildings around Jewish settlements. (Jewish

buildings also will have height limits.) The previous accord did not include specifics.

■ High Ground. An Israeli-Palestinian patrol will cover ground overlooking Jewish enclaves; this plateau was under only Palestinian security before.

In another new arrangement, there will be special traffic rules and construction of a wall between Arab and Jewish areas on part of Shuhada Street, the main road running from the center of the city past the Jewish enclaves to an Arab vegetable market. Israel sought this to prevent sniping or car bombs aimed at Jewish settlers, who fear a repeat of the 1992 massacre. The street has been closed to Arab traffic since 1994, when Baruch Goldstein, a right-wing Jewish extremist, massacred about 30 Muslims at prayer at the Cave of the Patriarchs.

The accord is to be accompanied by a US "note for the record," laying out further commitments by each side. It reportedly says Israel will agree to more redeployments and to resume final talks on the future of Jewish settlements, the return of Palestinian refugees, control over East Jerusalem, borders of the Palestinian rule area and Palestinian statehood. Israel also agrees to negotiate to release Palestinian prisoners, allow construction of a Gaza Strip port and operation of an airport and to open a free passage between Gaza and the West Bank.

In turn, the Palestinians commit to rewrite parts of the Palestine Liberation Organization charter omitting any reference to the destruction of Israel. They agree to cease any operations outside of designated self-rule areas. They will abide with security measures, dismantling groups associated with terrorism and disarming those with illegal weapons. ■

Political groups unite

Continued from page 1

saying that it was an establishment's tool to tame political parties.

However, Shbeilat refuted recent press suggestions that there are major differences between him and Obiedat on the "leadership" of the opposition. "I respect the man. I am happy with Obiedat's presence in the opposition, and I hope other leaders will follow his steps."

But the independent Islamic figure who is at odds with the Muslim Brotherhood, strongly criticized the role of the Islamicists in the political battle in the country. He told *The Star* that "the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood is using its members to serve the government's interest."

Leading Islamic figures said they are saddened by Shbeilat's comments. "I am sorry for what has been said by Shbeilat," said Hanzza Mansour, spokesman of the IAF Islamic bloc in the Lower House. "His attempts to harm the Islamic movement does not serve any cause."

Despite these differences, observers believe the opposition is still in a strong position. One banner unites them: "No normalization with Israel before a comprehensive and just peace that guarantees the return of all Arab occupied land and rights."

Putting on a brave face, Faisal said, "we work with a true team spirit to mobilize practical moves regarding the current challenges," adding that "there is no time to debate our ideologies, because we have major differences in this respect."

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

nent players in formulating a Jordanian popular strategy, especially when the official diplomacy has so far failed to influence changes in the Likud-led government after three months of manoeuvres.

"The government is doing what is right," said Mr Muasher. "It signed agreements and it has to honor them. But political parties are free to fight normalization with Israel to confront Netanyahu's extremism."

The anti-normalization process will continue, Mr Shbeilat said. "It is not because we wish that, but because the natural seeds are there, and because the peace treaty is against the interests of the *Umma* and against the path of history."

The opposition is strong enough to face any new developments, either on the Jordanian or Arab levels, and is ready to reactivate the opposition forces against the Zionist penetrations," said Mr Mansour. He added that the executive committee of the "Anti-Normalization Popular Conference" is coordinating with the centrist parties to officially join the opposition framework. ■

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

Observers argue that both Shbeilat and Obiedat are promi-

CLASSIFIEDS

Social survey

● The University of Bologna in Italy is looking for every foreign student (non-Italian) who graduated in Bologna from 1945. An important social research has been started and a questionnaire will be sent to the graduates contacted. All foreign graduates are kindly asked to write their current address to: Friends or relatives who know useful information are asked to write to: Osservatorio Statistico, Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche "P. Fortunati", Università di Bologna, via Belle Arti 41, 40126 Bologna BO, ITALIA

Books

● Antiquarian books and old prints by David Roberts and W. H. Bartlett for sale. Views of Jerusalem, The Holy Land and Petra. Please call 664805.

New telecommunication equipment to boost telephone lines

AMMAN (Star)—The JTC telecommunications college is acting as a showcase for a new innovation in technology between 14-16 January. Digital Designs (partners of the London-based Jordanian Desert Telecom Co.) have been working closely with engineers, El Shraif Jafar and Nidal Joudah, from The JTC telecommunications college to install a new equipment, developed by Pair-Cain Inc, that enables two normal telephone lines to be turned into 32 separate fibre quality phone lines.

This is achieved without installing any new lines underground by placing one piece of HDSL equipment at the exchange and a second at the local telephone pole or cabinet. The installation of this equipment is therefore very fast and means that the telephone company could install many new phone lines in hours. This could increase the demand for new lines for businesses and people's houses to be met far more quickly as well as being cost effective.

The HDSL technology is being demonstrated at the JTC Telecommunications College which has been working closely with Desert Telecom/Digital Designs. Abu Qayyas Abdel Fattah, the dean of the Telecommunications College said "We actively encourage international companies to use our college as a research center for new technologies as this helps Jordan's engineers to be prepared for developments in the next century. "The demonstration will be to a variety of guests including many JTC and government departments as well as representatives from telephone companies in the region. ■

High Court struggles to find answers in Clinton vs. Jones

Continued from page 1

president and spouse had separated, could a child be told to wait for four years before a court could decide which parent would have custody?

"Or suppose the president owns a great parcel of land. It is bubbling up with poison and the neighbors are upset," she continued. Can the chief executive say he is immune to answering an environmental complaint?

Bennett conceded that in an "exceptional" circumstance, "the president could be forced to respond. He struggled, however, to define why those cases were exceptional and this one was not.

"The public interest in having the president unimpaired to perform his duties," contended US Solicitor Gen. Walter Dellinger, joining the argument on Clinton's behalf. "We believe any civil litigation involving the president should be postponed."

"I must say I don't find that very persuasive," replied Justice Antonin Scalia. "We see the president riding on horses, chopping firewood, playing golf. The notion that he doesn't have a minute to spare is not credible."

Even if the president is too busy to appear for a deposition or a trial, why should the depositions of witnesses be delayed, asked Justice Stephen Breyer. "How would that affect the operation of the presidency," he asked.

"There is a problem of 'fading memories' if the lawsuit is delayed for too long," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist noted.

After Clinton's two lawyers were questioned for 30 minutes, lawyer Gilbert K. Davis stepped to the lectern to present Jones' arguments and also was peppered by questions.

Suppose the president is told to appear in court, but is scheduled to go to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting in Europe the same day, Scalia asked.

Davis conceded that the president should be excused if he says the court hearing would cause "an actual, or imminent interference with his presidential duties."

Who is to decide when there is such an interference: the trial judge or the president? Scalia continued.

The president must "make the assertion," he is too busy, he replied.

Breyer wondered whether the same applied to depositions by others. Suppose dozens of depositions are taken, and the state-ments raise questions about the president's behavior and veracity.

"Every statement is in the newspaper. And he says, 'I don't have time to respond (to media questions) to all this. It is interfering with my duties,'" Breyer continued. In that instance, could the president's lawyer stop the proceedings? he asked.

Yes, Davis replied, so long as the president made a "good faith assertion" that even depositions submitted by others created situations that occupied too much of his time.

Several justices looked perplexed by that answer.

Jones filed her lawsuit in May 1994, but it has been frozen from proceeding by Clinton's immunity claim. A judge in Little Rock and the US appeals court in St. Louis have ruled against the immunity claim, but Clinton's lawyers exercised their right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court cannot look to the US Constitution or federal law to answer the question of whether the president is immune from civil suits. ■

JORDAN TODAY
TOURISM-CULTURE-ENTERTAINMENT
JANUARY 1997

The Rituals of Ramadan

Discover Jordan Today's comprehensive guide to what's on this Ramadan at Hotels, Restaurants, Entertainment & more

January Issue

For More Information Call 652380

A peasant

■ The first of the Jordanian peasant poets, Fawzi al-Husseini, was born in 1914 in the village of Al-Husseiniya, near Amman. He was a member of the Jordanian Writers' Union and the Arab League. He died in 1994.

The Israeli

■ Since the formation of the State of Israel, the Jewish population has grown from about 600,000 to over 5 million. The Jewish population in Israel is about 6 million, and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip about 1 million.

Ministry of

■ The Ministry of Education in Israel is responsible for the education system in the country. It oversees the Ministry of Education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Ministry of Education in the occupied territories.

What a b

■ The first of the Jordanian peasant poets, Fawzi al-Husseini, was born in 1914 in the village of Al-Husseiniya, near Amman. He was a member of the Jordanian Writers' Union and the Arab League. He died in 1994.

And Al

■ The Ministry of Education in Israel is responsible for the education system in the country. It oversees the Ministry of Education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Ministry of Education in the occupied territories.

Quake b

■ Last week of the earthquake, the affected area was hit by a strong earthquake. It is true, it is a tragedy, but people are not quaking.

Military

■ Military officials are calculating the impact of the earthquake on the military. We are told that the source of the earthquake is not a military installation.

16 JANUARY 1997

J O R D A N

THE STAR 3

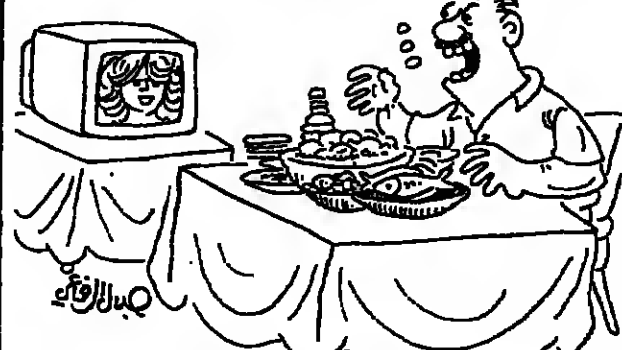
JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

It's a cool Ramadan—short days, many feasts and tens of satellite channels!



A peasant party in Jordan

■ This is not a unique idea. For peasant parties have been formed all over the world at one time or another; in fact Jordan is a late comer. But yes, a peasant party will be registered during Ramadan. What is interesting is that it will include quite a number of Lower House deputies such as Fawzi Tuelmei, the present chairman of the Lower House's Arab and International Affairs Committee, Abdallah Akhu Rusheida, Rabea Al Soud and Khalid Abd Al Nabbi. With such names, you would think that it is an establishment party, but you would be wrong, one of its founders stresses. Shihadeh Abu Baqar says that it is a social and peasant party that concentrates on agriculture, the rural countryside and the Badia, those parts of the Kingdom which are less well off.

The Israeli trade fair

■ Some may say one good thing about the Israeli trade fair, that it united them from far across the political divide. About 3000 people gathered at last Friday's sermon at a mosque one kilometre away from where the trade was being held in Marj Al Hamam. Naturally, the road was closed to cater for the people who assembled to listen to the sermon. It included Lower House deputies, trade unionists and members of political parties. The three-hour sermon was designed to deliver a forceful message that the fair was not welcomed in the country. As for the Israeli trade exhibition, it ended peacefully last Tuesday. Although many are branding it as a flop since no more than 30 Israeli companies turned up, the organizers feel that in the end they got what they want and staged the four-day expo. But not so fast. Others argue that while they may let the show go on, it was a cry in the wilderness, since it was poorly attended and many of those invited failed to turn up.

Ministry of Labor gets tough

■ It seems that we don't have accurate figures regarding the number of foreign workers in the country. This would be the implication of the comments made by the Ministry of Labor, Dr Abdel Haliz Al Shakhaneh recently. He told the Planning Council in the ministry that it is imperative to be stringent with foreign workers in the Kingdom and to make sure that they are not employed in jobs which can be done by Jordanians. He added that this is in line with law. A fair enough view you may argue and one that is practiced by other countries. But the council went a step further than that. It is now forming a working group from all the Labor Directorates in the Kingdom to provide a complete study of the state of foreign workers, statistics, type of work and their status situation. Another good idea, one may think, but why didn't the ministry take this initiative right from the start.



Al Shakhaneh

What a budget

■ The Greater Amman Municipality must be one of the highest public corporations in the country. Its total revenues for 1996 reached a massive JD 59.9 million. However, this is slightly below 1995 figure which totaled about JD 61 million. The municipality has been very active in the last year. This year it will rename quite a lot of the neighborhoods, gardens and streets in Amman. Meanwhile the anti-corruption directorate is taking eight GAM employees to court for embezzlement. The employees who work in the Works and Machinery Dept., in the municipality are said to have embezzled up to JD 4 million.

... And Al Abbadi for Parliament

■ The Mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality, Dr Mamdouh Al Abbadi, could be standing for Parliament in the next election. If he does, then it is almost certain that he will quit his present job as a mayor. Furthermore, political punters are saying that Dr Abbadi will likely fight for one of the Zarqa seats, since he is very popular with many people in that part of the world. Mr Abbadi has done a lot to the Amman governorate. If he does go then he will be remembered for making the capital city more greener.



Al Abbadi

Quake but no problem

■ Last week another quake was registered in the north west of the country and Israel. But not to worry we are told. This earthquake, which registered 5.8 on the Richter scale, was the aftereffects of the quake that hit Cyprus last November. It is true, however, the last quake was no more than a twinge since it occurred in the Mediterranean. However, people as far as Al Sero, west of Amman did feel the quake.

Military service to end unemployment

■ Military conscription was on our doorstep, so we thought, then it wasn't, then it was. This story has been circulating in the news at least for the last two months. Now we are told from a top level source from the Prime Minister's Office that military service is well on the way. The story was splashed by the weekly Al Urdun. Quoting the source, the newspaper said that military conscription was a way to end unemployment in the country and is being actively considered by the Prime Minister, Abdel Karim Al Kabarti. This is part of a national strategy to get people working again. The idea would be for the military conscription to join the national economy through development projects that would be set up. According to the source the conscripts would be paid a reasonable price for such work. He said this will fight against poverty and unemployment.

Prince opens conference on Jordan Rift Valley

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan opened the meetings of the Jordan Rift Valley Development Committee (JRVC) which started at the Dead Sea, Tuesday. The Prince praised the meeting which comes at a stage of "relative optimism" in the region. The meeting comes under the umbrella of the trilateral economic committee which was established in 1993 in Washington between Jordan, Israel and the US. The Prince said it was a good omen to hold the JRVC in an atmosphere of relative political movement with high hopes for a breakthrough in Palestinian-Israeli talks. He said it is essential to develop the Jordan Rift Valley as one that will lead to progress and prosperity. The Prince added that he is optimistic about the future of the region and said that there is a commitment on all parties, including the Palestinians, to develop this area of the world.



Deputies express anger at New Year celebrations

AMMAN (Star)—The New Year celebrations created quite a stir among Lower House deputies, Islamic deputies were particularly angry with Jordan Television for transmitting live the New Year celebrations from different Arab capitals and from different hotels in Amman. JTV quite simply showed how people were enjoying themselves.

However, Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies reacted sharply, devoting all the Lower House session that was held last Sunday, to attack JTV for their transmission of the celebrations and the government for allowing the airing of such celebrations arguing that it goes against religion, tradition and the morals of the Jordanian society.

With the attendance of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti, and the rest of the government, they listened patiently to attacks by the Islamists.

Ahmad Al Kofahi, IAF deputy, said that Jordan Television was guilty of "debauchery which we should fight." He pointed out that it is certainly not entertainment. Next came Abdel Munem Abu Zunt who was equally scathing. He said that "the print and television media have waged a devastating war on morals and values during the Christmas and New Year celebrations." He added that this was done in a "cheap way that Jesus Christ and every Muslim and Christian would exonerate himself from."

But he didn't stop there. Abu Zunt then reminded the government that it promised to respect the Constitution which points out that the religion of the state is Islam. He called on the government to "punish" those who participated in the fight against morality.

Abd Al Aziz Jabr said that JTV insulted the government when it broadcast live, and on its two channels, the New Year celebrations.

He said that this shows that the government does not abide by its official media policy, the Constitution and the law.

He pointed out the Jordan Television "was a mere imitator" which diverted from the "originality and belonging to the nation" and does not abide to the Islamic calendar.

He said that the media is a mirror image which reflects the reality of the nation.

He added that JTV insulted the morals of Jordanians as Muslims and Arabs portraying them as "dancing lascivious people" who spent the New Year Eve in hotels and night clubs. Similarly Hamad said was vociferous in his comments. He said JTV had no right in airing the New Year celebrations since it is a public corporation and not a private one. However, he said this did not stop them from showing the



Kabarti



Al Kilani

"depravity" and "vice" of the New Year celebration, "something that goes against Islamic jurisprudence and religion."

This was really strong stuff from the Islamic deputies, something that was not too surprising. What is strange however, is that their opinions were also broadcast at length by Jordan Television on Sunday night.

Cynical analysts would argue that JTV took it upon itself to transmit the views of the Lower House deputies even though they were criticizing the public corporation.

This was done, some say, to dampen the criticism that JTV has been receiving for the last couple of months from opposition deputies. Opposition deputies have been arguing that Jordan Television has not been giving them the proper time on air. Consequently their point of

views were muffled. But this was certainly not the case at last Sunday's session and others may argue that it disproves their claim.

At the end of the session, Prime Minister Kabarti was given the floor to reply. He wouldn't be put off by the criticism and on that particular issue.

He said that "the government regards entertainment as a right of every citizen." He said that the "government's commitments to the ethics and values exists and is based upon standards which it creates and not anybody else's."

Kabarti's statement angered Islamic deputy Dr Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani who shouted that Kabarti's statement encourages "debauchery."

Jordanian-Italian cultural agreement concluded recently

AMMAN (Star)—In their attempt to boost cultural exchange, Italy and Jordan concluded last week the Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement for 1997, 1998 and 1999. The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning between the Ambassador of Italy Dr Francesco Cerulli, and Mr Nabil Amnari, the general secretary of the Ministry of Planning.

The agreement stressed cooperation in the different cultural, educational and scientific fields. As to the educational part of the agreement, the two countries will encourage contacts and direct cooperation between their universities and other institutions of higher education and science. This will include exchanging professors and researchers. Also encouraging the teaching of the Italian

language and literature in Jordanian universities and schools is a major constituent of the agreement.

The Italian side shall award scholarships to undergraduate and graduate Jordanian students in the academic year 1996-1997 in the fields of science, technology, language, archaeology and the humanities. Also, Jordan will grant scholarships for Italian students in the academic year 1996-1997 for language teaching, humanities and archaeology. More coordination will be focused on exchanging experiences on school education and social development.

As to the cultural side, the two countries are encouraging performances by professional or amateur artists in music, theater or the other forms of the

performing arts. Jordanian is currently organizing an archaeological exhibition in Rome to be held in the fall of 1997. This is part of an effort to promote the cultural heritage of Jordan. There will also be cooperation between experts from Museums, archives and libraries in the two countries.

The two parties expressed their satisfaction with the existing cooperation in the field of archaeology and restoration and their willingness to continue the support given to Italian archaeological missions already working in Jordan. Restoration works will continue at sites like Makawar, Jerash, Petra, wadi Rum and Ajlun.

Regarding scientific cooperation there will be a continuous coordination between the sci-

entific research centers of the universities of the two countries. As to youth and sport concerns, the two parties consider the promotion of exchange of sport publications, texts, and audio-visuals on various sport disciplines. Also, the Olympic Committees of the two countries are to exchange technical and teaching publications and audio visual material.

Other aspects of the agreement included the exchange of information and on different cultural, political, economic and social aspects. In the field of health, scientific research centers will be exchanging information and probably experts.

The agreement cited financial and general provisions related to the implementation of the previous points.

People & Politics



Friday's sermon close to the Israeli fair attract many from all walks of life

Opposition's moment of glory

■ The mass protests against the holding of an Israeli trade fair in Amman last week have brought together anti-peace camp from all political shades in a rare moment of unity. The question now is whether this united front will go on and whether it will influence the political stage in the future. Looking back at last week's events one can come up with some conclusions. Demonstrators numbered between 3000 to 6000 but not more.

Does this reflect the true size of the opposition? There were some emotional moments, especially when anti-riot police had to intervene to prevent public disorder. But overall the event was peaceful and organized. The opposition camp had made its point and was able to send a strong message. But would this change realities on the ground? It is highly unlikely.

Government reaction to the protests was careful and calculated. The protesters even received some airtime on the state-run TV. Playing along has helped release public anger with as little cost as possible. And with Jordanian-Israeli relations not at their best—who knows? The protests may have actually helped rather than embarrassed the government which is trying to influence the Netanyahu cabinet into considering its position from the on-going negotiations.

The protests have also highlighted the rise of former Prime Minister Ahmad Obiedat's political fortunes. He is now considered by many as the leader of the opposition camp overtake other symbols such as Laith Shbeilat and some Islamist figures. Obiedat, who is non-partisan, represents the common denominator in a politically confused environment rife with Islamists, leftists, pan-Arabists and right-wing nationalists. But his rise to the helm could prove to be a temporary one.

The Israeli fair gave him a chance to rally support from political parties and public associations. But the fair has ended and with it the cause for unity. Without a fixed or clear agenda, the opposition camp may soon disintegrate or face internal problems. Naturally the government's invisible hand will be felt moving here and there within the opposition camp itself. It has done so in the past with considerable success.

The strength of the opposition will be resting on prospects of an improving economy and living conditions of Jordanians. Many viewed 1996 as a year of dashed hopes and mounting frustrations. This year does not look any better. In fact, if peace and its dividends remain elusive there is every chance that the opposition will thrive on increasing public despair. Our trade ties with Iraq, relations with the Palestinians, implementation of our peace treaty with Israel with regards to water, trade and others will determine when and if our economic performance will get any better.

Iraq's vendetta: Oil-for-Kabarti?

■ Not much surfaced from the brief visit of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to Jordan this week and his meeting with Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabarti. Mr Aziz, whose meeting with Mr Kabarti was said to have been scheduled at Jordan's request, assured Jordanians that Iraq will continue to supply Jordan with its needs of Iraqi oil the same way it had been doing since 1990.

Jordan imports all of its oil from Iraq, about 4.5 million tons of crude annually. About half of that oil is given to Jordan free of charge and the rest is sold at preferential rates, about \$15 a barrel. In addition to this agreement, the two countries have a \$250 million commercial protocol under which Iraq imports Jordanian goods and services. Jordan and Iraq have been negotiating in recent weeks to renew the agreements, but it is not clear to date whether Iraq will be renewing the oil agreement under the present conditions.

A recent visit by ministers of finance and energy failed to get an Iraqi stamp of approval. Instead, Baghdad told the Jordanian officials that they should be ready for a new terms after a three month transitional period. There are speculations that the Iraqis will be willing to sell some of their oil at international prices or at least at higher rates. If this is confirmed it could spell disaster for Jordan's 1997 budget with about \$350 million needed to pay for that oil.

But the Iraqis are keeping us guessing. A second visit to Baghdad by ministers of trade and transport was postponed until after Aziz's visit to Amman. Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi was unable to confirm the details of the new agreement. Mr Aziz made it clear that Iraq is committed to settling its debts to Jordan, currently standing at \$1.4 billion. But he also hinted that Iraq was obtaining goods and services from Jordan in exchange for the "free" oil it was giving to Jordan.

The tabloid press is already talking of an "Iraqi vendetta" the price of which could be Kabarti's job. It is no secret that this government has not been sympathetic to the Iraqi regime and that political relations between Baghdad and Amman are not at their best. The new formula of "oil-for-Kabarti" may be in the offing if not now, then at a later stage especially as Jordan finds itself in need of the Iraqi market and its expanding prospects.

So far the Iraqi position has been business-like and not confrontational. This is exactly why Jordan, which has been getting economic preferential treatment from Iraq, should be worried. Without cheap Iraqi oil, Jordan will have no option but to buy its oil needs from the international market at international prices. The Saudis have been willing to reopen the Tappan to supply Jordan with its oil needs provided that Jordan pays in advance and at market rates.

The Star
Tel: 652380
Fax: 648298

Keep on watch for

The Activities of the National Music Conservatory during Ramadan

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

- Sat., Jan. 18 Russian Duo: Constantine Orbelian (piano) and Maria Safariants (violin) JD 7
- Wed., Jan. 22 Russian Duo and the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory (Mohammad Othman Sidqi, conductor)
- Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 and Beethoven: Violin Concerto JD 7
- Under the Patronage of H.E. the French Ambassador Mr. Bernard Bajolet
- Sat., Jan. 25 Philippe Giusiano in a Chopin Recital JD 6

Hotel Intercontinental - Jordan

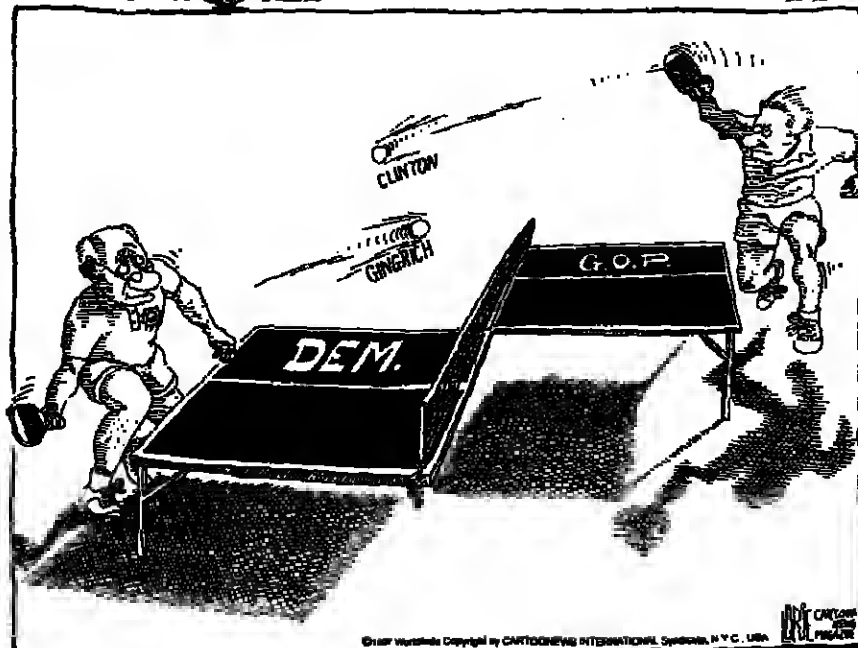
- Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.
- Tues., Feb. 4 Lutfi Boushnaq and his Ensemble in an evening of traditional and authentic Arab music JD 75, 50 and 25

Tickets available at:

- Alahia Abela Superstore, tel. 686481
- Alissar Flowers, tel. 827695
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Cafe Moka, tel. 856285
- Hotel Intercontinental, Jordan, tel. 641361
- The French Cultural Center, tel. 637009
- Safeway, tel. 685311
- The Royal Cultural Center, tel. 669026
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

LURIE'S WORLD

LURIE'S WORLD



Our Say...

Peace process is back on track

WITH THE initialing on Wednesday of the Hebron protocol and other agreements pertaining to Israel's redeployment from the West Bank after tenuous and exhausting negotiations, the Middle East peace process appears to be back on track.

Only few days ago, the fate of this process was in the balance. Much credit goes to the bold initiative of His Majesty King Hussein in the final hour when it appeared that the gulf separating the Palestinians and the Israelis was widening. By throwing his weight and credibility behind the beleaguered process, the King was able to bring pragmatism and hope back into a process that had gone astray.

What is important about the recent developments is not the fact that a deal has been reached on Hebron, but that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has committed himself and his government to the Oslo accords. This, in a nutshell, is an historic breakthrough. The peace option is no longer an exclusive commitment of the Labor party and its allies within Israel. By accepting the principles of the past agreements, Mr Netanyahu has made one of the most crucial decisions of his career—a decision that will redress the state of confusion and doubt that had accompanied his election last May.

We are aware, as do the Palestinians, that the Hebron deal is just the beginning and much work needs to be done. Mr Netanyahu must follow his signature with deeds. He must show goodwill in the coming round of negotiations; he must show that the important turnaround that was made this week was not a tactical move on his part.

Mr Netanyahu is aware of the needs of the majority of Israelis, who support the Oslo deal and the principle of exchanging land for peace. He and those who support him in his cabinet and the Israeli Knesset must put the long-term interest of their people ahead of the impossible and mad designs of a shrinking minority of extremists.

For the Palestinians, the deal and Israel's commitment means a return of hope. They must now earn on the ground what they have achieved on paper; namely a swift Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, the opening of Gaza airport and seaport, the release of Palestinian prisoners and a phased out Israeli troop pullback from the rest of West Bank towns. These are issues that Israel is now committed to fulfilling. The United States is also committed to steering the negotiations towards these ends.

For the Arabs, the recent events mean that concerted diplomatic efforts can bear fruit. The role of Jordan and Egypt in the past few weeks has been indispensable. This is an important achievement of the peace agreements that we must not overlook.

But the Arabs must realize by now that a unified internal stand is vital to keeping the peace process on course. A just and comprehensive peace is an Arab goal. As we approach the final status negotiations, the Hebron marathon will appear more like a simple dress rehearsal. A strong Arab stand is an essential ingredient to a successful conclusion. ■

US-Israeli relations

The case for re-evaluation

By Pat M. Holt

IT IS time for a showdown with Israel. With the policy of subsidizing Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the Israeli government of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is threatening not only the Israeli-Palestinian peace process but also the progress that has been made toward peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors—Egypt, Jordan and even Syria.

The United States has too much invested in Israel and in the area, going back almost 50 years to the creation of the state of Israel, to allow this to happen without the most strenuous diplomatic efforts. This is separate from, but related to, withdrawal from Hebron.

The West Bank is home to hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs and hundreds of Israeli Jews. It was seized by Israel during the six-day war in 1967. The occupation continues in defiance of a 1967 United Nations security Council resolution urging withdrawal.

At least since the Nixon administration, the United States has advocated a policy of land for peace, whereby Israel would withdraw from parts of the West Bank in return for solid political agreements. This was the foundation of the Oslo plan, which was accepted as the basis for negotiation by the previous Israeli government headed by the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. But this is precisely what Mr Netanyahu's Likud party has so much trouble accepting.

A part of the Likud's concern—a part shared by all Israelis—has to do with security.

That concern is met by land for peace plus the record of the United States in ensuring that Israel has the best military equipment. At times, it has seemed that the United States was the only friend Israel had. In the United Nations, the US used its veto in the Security Council and its influence in other bodies to ward off the more critical anti-Israel resolutions.

In all of this, the United States paid a large price—in dollars for foreign aid and in

from the United States. This is more than any other country.

A more troubling Likud concern about the West Bank than security stems from the Orthodox Jewish belief that Jews have a divine and inalienable right to "Judea and Samaria," the biblical terms for the area. A group of rabbis has even called on Israeli soldiers to disobey orders to withdraw.

Netanyahu's record suggests that what he really wants is to satisfy the concerns about both security and divine right

ously. When president Clinton criticized the subsidies to West Bank settlers, an Israeli official suggested it was the result of a bad briefing by Mr Clinton's subordinates.

One reason for this Israeli attitude is that Israel has usually been able to rely on its friends in the American Jewish community to use their legendary political clout to reverse any tendencies Washington might have to question Israeli policies. Already the chairmen of the senate foreign relations and house international relations committees have weighed in with a letter to Netanyahu assuring him of their support.

But, as demonstrated by fund-raising in the recent election, Clinton also has friends in the American Jewish community. They are not without influence in Israel, as well as in Washington. And they have perhaps the greatest investment, both emotional and financial, in Israel's success. They could now render a great service to Israel, to the United States, and above all to the cause of peace by urging a change of policy on Israel.

Political accommodation between Israel and its neighbors will bring trade and social intercourse. These will create vested interests in peace. That is the path to real security.

Something else needs to be made clear. The United States cannot allow its foreign policy to be hostage to doctrinaire religious extremism, whether from conservative orthodox Jews, Islamic fundamentalists, or evangelical Christians. ■

Christian Science Monitor

At least since the Nixon administration, the United States has advocated a policy of land for peace, whereby Israel would withdraw from parts of the West Bank in return for solid political agreements

political standing in the Muslim world.

The US got something in return—a strong and reliable ally in a volatile area. Israel showed notable restraint during the Gulf War, and it has steadfastly supported unpopular US positions in the UN, sometimes at the cost of being in a lonely minority.

Israel has grown up now. It has its own armaments industry. It is a standard of living in a class with Ireland and Spain. It is still getting about \$3 billion a year in foreign aid

by incorporating the West Bank into Israel and to disguise this by giving lip service to peace. He accuses the Palestinians of plotting violence while he himself is doing things to provoke violence. When this self-fulfilling prophecy comes true, Netanyahu will claim vindication even as he surveys the ruins that his policy produced.

So accustomed have the Israelis become to their close relationship with the United States that they find it hard to take American criticism seri-

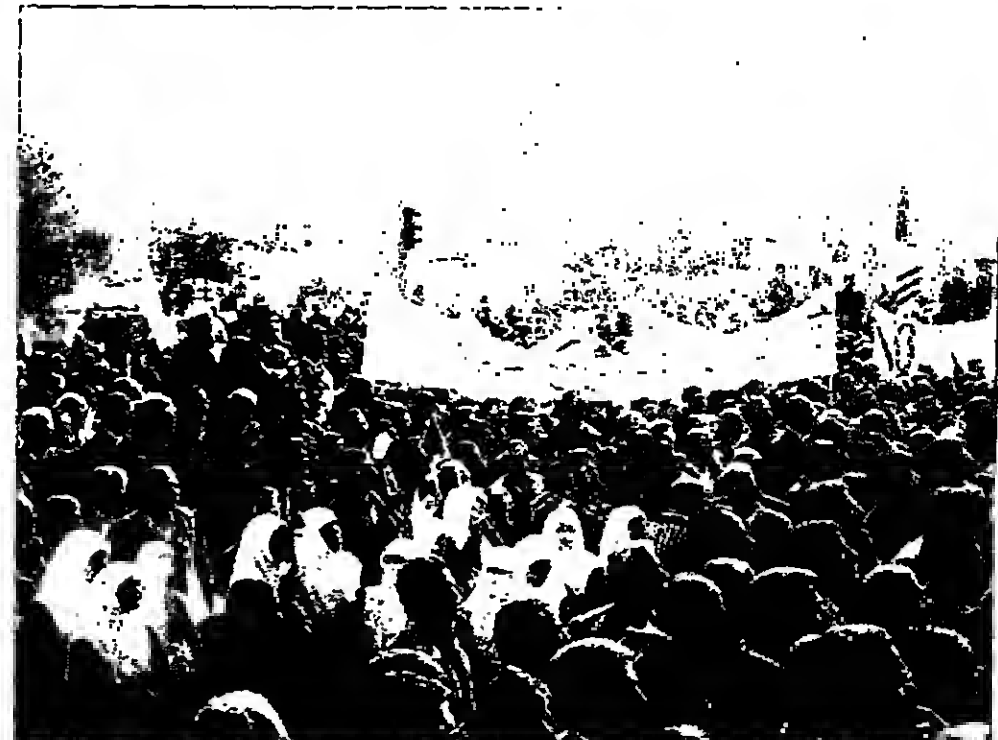
A visit to the Israeli Trade Fair

By Dr A. Clare Brandtbur

ON FRIDAY morning, 10 January, I went out to the site just off the Airport Road south of Amman in the Marj Al-Hammam area, to express my disapproval of the Israeli Trade Fair. When I arrived by taxi around 10.00 am, there were many security personnel at a checkpoint blocking off the road a few hundred yards from the blue shed-like structure in which I was told the fair was taking place.

I asked permission to enter and was directed politely to the officer in charge who informed me it was *Mannuhal* for me to enter without an invitation from the Israeli embassy. I told him, I wanted to tell the Israelis that in my view as an American living in Jordan the Israelis had nothing to sell that had not either been stolen from the Palestinians or extorted from the American taxpayer. He suggested that I go around to the checkpoint on the other side of the venue and ask for a permit to enter there.

As I walked away from that checkpoint I could see troops ranged all the way down the road past the traffic sign reading "Naur" above and "International Fair" below, toward the blue building, and a scattering of civilians gathered across the street. At the other checkpoint, I had the same experience: politely but firmly I was told it was forbidden to enter, but when the soldiers brought an English-speaking officer to speak to me and I told him why I wanted to enter the Trade Fair, I felt there was a good deal of amused sympathy with my views. I suppose there were not many other middle-aged American women wearing Nike's and a black and white kufiyeh, so I made a



Demonstrators express outrage at Israeli products show. Picture taken on day of the opening of the exhibition last Wednesday

somewhat odd fashion statement.

By good luck, a local resident overheard my remarks to the officers and took me in tow. I was served coffee, allowed to take photos from a good vantage point, and then escorted down to the original checkpoint where by now a very impressive crowd had gathered. It was Friday and the first day of Ramadan I would estimate at least 2000 people were praying in the street facing the security forces, and my guide kindly translated for me; they were praying for rain, for peace, and I could hear choruses from a group a bit higher up on the hill above the street chanting slogans vehemently but peacefully. I thought of the

wise tactics of the pro-democracy forces in Belgrade marching and singing, driving their cars, making candle-light vigils at the Cathedral. Here, there seemed to be a tacit agreement between the demonstrators and the security forces—no violent confrontations. How smart, I thought. This is a great strong peaceful expression of collective opinion. Will the world listen even though no one is being beaten or tear-gassed? I hope so.

Seeing a cameraman filming the gathering, I asked permission to say a few words and I was asked to introduce myself. I spoke as an American convinced that, as long as there are more illegal settlers, more massacres, more chil-

dren being bludgeoned, more human rights activists detained by the Mossad, more foot-dragging in the "peace" process, closures which mean more hardship for the Palestinians in the Camps everywhere, how can we even consider having a trade fair with the Israelis. They are illegally occupying Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese land, causing economic hardship, impeding education, displacing thousands of innocent people, and keeping thousands of Palestinians in prison. I would say the trade fair is at best premature, and I am glad I live in a country where I am able to say so. Thank you, Jordan! ■



US envoy Dennis Ross (left) with Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat (also PNA Minister of Municipal Affairs) on Monday, two days before the Hebron deal was clinched. (See front page story)

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).
Editorial & Advertising: Telephones 652-380, 645-380, Fax 648-298.
P.O. Box 9313, Postal Code 11191 Amman - Jordan. email: Star@arabia.com
http://www.arabia.com/star

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor

Dr Marwan Al Asmar

Editorial Team

Raed Al Abed (Home News Editor), Iham Sadeq (Economic Editor),

Olivier Bras (French Editor), Zeid Nasser (Technology Editor),

Munther Hamdan (Features Editor)

Management & Production

Mahmoud Fares (General Administration), Qurban Hussain (Production),

Ali Nimer (Accountant), Zaki Qurban (Layout), Fouad Jbour (Archive)

The Star is serviced by LA Times-Washington Post News Service, Cartoons International

(Lurie cartoons), PANOS, The WorldPaper, Editors Press Service, STILLS and by

correspondents in the United States and South Asia.

Member of The International Advertising Association

Subscriptions: (annual) Jordan, JD 20, Arab countries US\$ 100, W. Europe US\$ 200,

USA & Canada US\$ 200.

Letters to the editor: Will be edited for brevity, must contain name and address of sender.

Letters to the Editor

A university for peace

To the Editor

New ideas linking regional socio-economic development to the peace process in the Middle East and its implications on the long-term security of Europe and the OECD countries appear to be taking shape. One such proposal calls for the establishment of a university, surrounded by a science park—similar to Sophia Antipolis on the French Riviera—following the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon.

This major project—to be located in South Lebanon—in the so-called "Security Zone," now occupied by Israel, is expected to become a focal point of relations among Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and the Palestinians. Advocates of the plan feel that the establishment of such a cultural complex alongside agricultural

villages will transform South Lebanon, Galilee, and areas between the Golan Heights into societies that will enhance peace and cultural development throughout the region. The university which will be linked on-line with databanks world-wide as well as with research centers in Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine will focus on energy and solar power, water resources and irrigation, agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, arts, and humanities. A special programme on the region's cultural history will also be offered. Emphasis will be placed on the contribution of Judeo-Christian-Islamic civilizations to the development of Western culture.

Because the archaeological riches of the area need to be preserved and studied, part of the university would com-

prise an archaeological center where young archaeologists could be trained, with a museum to display and restore their finds. Also attached to the university will be a Centre for Peace and the Prevention of Future Conflict which will include a transdisciplinary programme for the rehabilitation of fanatics and their sponsors.

Although the Arab-Israeli conflict has dominated much of the discussions about the area over the past 50 years, insufficient attention has been devoted to other important issues that may not have been as eye-catching or newsworthy. Such questions include a variety of topics such as quarrels over God's identity, border disputes, divergence in petroleum policies, and whether water is more precious than oil. Providing answers to such questions will

go a long way in ensuring security and establishing a peace culture among the peoples of the region.

Funding for the project will come from the states sponsoring the International Peace Conference including Japan, Canada, the EU, the US and Russia. Additional funding will be generated by the private sector including international banks and multinational corporations which will also be able to set up their own corporate research and development (R & D) centers. Proponents of the plan have stressed that scientific research be limited to development projects and have excluded classified research and all types of military and nuclear-related activities. ■

Christian Doumit
Amman

Middle East Beat

Peace and security

JORDANIAN POLITICAL initiatives on the regional and international arenas, have always been clear cut: they never wavered from the fulfillment of Arab objectives and aspirations.

The direction of Jordan's foreign policy relies on the inter-connectedness of regional and international considerations without compromising the constants of Jordanian realism. His Majesty King Hussein's initiative in pushing forward regional peace is an important part of our quiet diplomacy, and firmly links to the parts that hold the comprehensive and just peace together.

It is vital that Jordan intensifies its diplomatic efforts and formulates its foreign policy on clear principles, and international variables. We have witnessed various proposals from foreign policy makers in Israel, EU, and the USA regarding the future of our region, its peace and security. But unfortunately, the vision for the future does not encompass the necessary package under such terms, neither for security nor for comprehensive peace.

When the West takes the question of its security towards east Asia, and skips the whole of west Asia, the imbalance created tends to leave the most important conflict zone in a state of turmoil and without any hope for stability. Most importantly, the checked approach to security in western Asia tends to be linked mainly to the oil question, and to a lesser extent the issue of accessible markets. The human dimension is totally neglected without urgency, and without realization that the concerns of development and economic prosperity are the linchpins of political stability.

From this perspective, the efforts of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, which complement King Hussein's efforts to find a viable solution to the intricate and complex problems of our region, are concentrated on the human factor in any future formula that aims to guarantee the peaceful development of relations in our area.

The Israelis have their own vision of security for the region, a vision which resulted, largely, by the experience of the second Gulf War, and in which Israel proposes to link its security to that of the Gulf. Under such a formula, one cannot help but feel that Jordan will not be in a position to view its security in a total manner but rather leaves it to find its own security arrangements in a situation of the laws of the jungle, rather than the civilized partnership that transcends military issue and armaments.

The region is a whole, geographical complementarity, and peace cannot be a divisible entity, for the concerns of our area are one and the same, and prosperity as well as stability cannot be achieved on a selective basis.

For any security arrangement, Jordan does not look only towards the Mediterranean, but also to the Red Sea, and to its own Arab depth in a geographically inclusive regional arrangement, interdependent and built on the strong basis of human, and economic development as well as political stability.

Business

Country	Value
US\$	100
£	100
DM	100
Sfr	100
FRF	100
YEN	100
DEL	100
LIT	100

Country	Value
US\$	100
£	100
DM	100
Sfr	100
FRF	100
YEN	100
DEL	100
LIT	100

Country	Value
US\$	100
£	100
DM	100
Sfr	100
FRF	100
YEN	100
DEL	100
LIT	100

Middle East Beat
by Khairi Janbek
Peace and security

Business scene

■ The Jordan International Industrial Co., is now established at a capital of JD 2 million. Its shareholders include the Jordan International Insurance Co., the Industrial Development Bank, the Social Security Corp., and some Jordanian and Arab businessmen. The company plans to carry out various projects including an organic fertilizer industrial project, dry green and concentrate animal feeders and a processing glass sand. About 200 new job opportunities would be created immediately. Its fertilizer production plants will be in Zarqa and in the south of the Kingdom.

■ Arab Potash has generated net profits of JD 140 million last year. The company's export revenues totalled \$170 million in 1996. It plans to expand production to 2.25 million tons over the next three years to generate export earnings of \$220 million before the end of the century. Total costs of the expansion scheme is \$100 million. The company's sales in 1995 rose by 16.3% compared with 1994. Arab Potash exports its production to many markets such as India, China, Europe, Canada, Latin America and the US.

■ Total production of the Jordan Cement Factories Co., recorded an increase of 3%, in 1996 to reach 3,512,190, 512 tons compared with 3,414,812 tons in 1995. The company's exports also rose by 35% in 1996 to reach 951,215 tons against 707,850 tons. This is due to its conclusive marketing strategy to attract more clients to buy cement and the high quality of its cement. However, domestic sales of cement went down last year by 3.6% to reach 2,582,478 tons compared with 2,680,581 in 1995.

■ Madaba is witnessing an economic boom in its commercial and industrial fields. This is thanks to its Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The chamber serves as a liaison between the merchants and the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and financial institutions in Amman. There are also 26 national factories that have greatly contributed to putting an end to unemployment in the governorate. The Madaba chamber has 2200 members.

Foreign Exchange Wednesday, 15 January		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1983	1.2043
DM	0.4540	0.4563
SP	0.5229	0.5255
FRF	0.1344	0.1351
Yen (100)	0.6134	0.6165
HK\$	0.0408	0.0404
NT\$	0.0462	0.0462

Inter-Arab trade below expectations, argues expert

AMMAN (Star)—In his working paper given to the first Conference for Arab Businessmen, Dr Jassim Al Mannae, the executive chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said that inter-Arab trade is far below expectations. For many years, inter-Arab trade has suffered from a series of defects arising from the tendency of some Arab countries to adopt the slogans of self-sufficiency and the benefits from international markets.

Seven Arab countries owe Iraq \$1.4 billion

SOURCES AT the Iraqi Ministry of Finance revealed that seven Arab countries owe Iraq debts estimated at \$1.4 billion. This sum includes loans provided by Iraq, oil exports, bank deposits and profits of joint Arab projects. These states are Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Somalia, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Iraq disclosed last October that its frozen assets in these countries since 1990 (the Gulf war) total \$1.3 billion. But the increase in their debts resulted from the accumulated interest ratio on these debts.

Also, Iraqi deposits in the European and American banks were frozen since 1990. Baghdad had hopelessly, and many times called for the release of its deposits to buy humanitarian foodstuffs to reduce the sufferings of its people because of the UN sanctions.

However, he continued, despite these efforts the level of trade exchange between Arab states is too low compared with the size of Arab external trade. Al Mannae attributed this to the weakness of the productive and export base. "The production criteria in the Arab states lack variety, if we exclude oil and other raw materials, other products prove to be weak," he added.

In the light of the gradual movement from controlled and directed economies in the Arab world, to more liberalized economies, Dr Al Mannae expects inter-Arab trade to flourish and move on the right track.

Many Arab countries, particularly Jordan and Egypt, have moved successfully in their economic reform programs and have gone far in giving the private sector a greater role in the process of development. In addition, economic strategies in some, if not most Arab countries, are tending to move towards becoming affiliates to International organizations

such as the European partnership and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This, according to Dr Al Mannae, revises the need for the emergence of regional Arab blocs to face global challenges.

Joining WTO and other organizations will certainly be a motivation towards openness and the liberalization of external trade, leading also to increasing the volume of inter-Arab trade exchange and establishing free zones in the region.

What is also promising for pan-Arab trade-exchange is the increasing concern in Arab countries to enhance the infrastructure which is essential for trade sectors covering education, health, banking, hotels, industry, insurance, financial services, freight and marketing.

However, Arab countries are willing to facilitate procedures to encourage free trade. These are two-fold, on the administrative level and/or customs legislations. Dr Al Mannae pointed out. These measures will also enhance import and export

Jordanian touristic sector provides promising incentives for investors

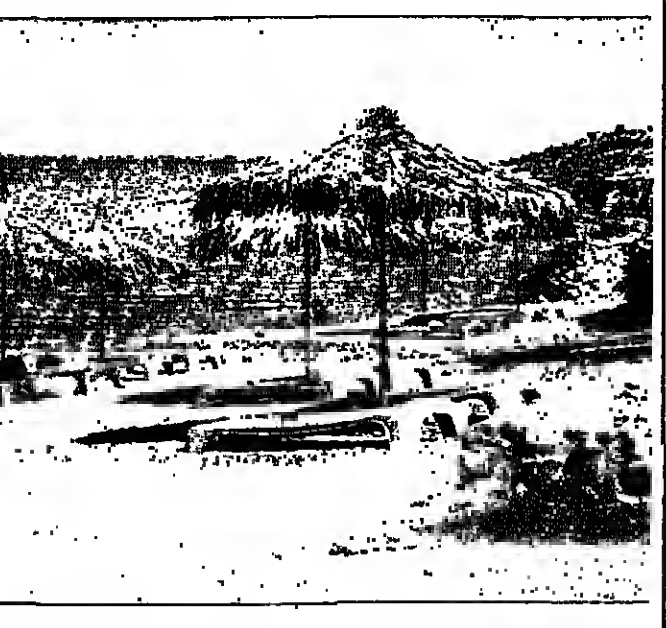
AMMAN (Star)—Since the peace treaty was concluded between Jordan and Israel three years ago, the touristic sector witnessed ups and downs. This is particularly so in the promotion of touristic sites in Jordan. Yet any further achievements in this regard were blocked by the hardline policy adopted by the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. However, official sources estimate the volume of touristic investments in Jordan over the last 1995-1996 at \$500 million.

Most of these are Arab and Jordanian investments. There are 45 hotels with 500 rooms under construction. Jordan is exerting great effort to develop the touristic sector through organizing its administration and setting realistic touristic strategies on the basis of developing touristic legislations.

In addition to the obstacles arising from the setbacks in the peace process, the touristic sector suffers from other difficulties related to financing and high interest rates on loans together with restrictions to guarantee the requirements to obtain banking facilities.

In addition, there is the shortage of cadres and fully trained technical manpower that is qualified to work in the hotels and catering sector. Although there are approximately 5800 archaeological sites in Jordan, it is difficult to make land available because of its highly historical nature, particularly those in the northern heights, Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley.

Besides Petra and Aqaba, these areas have fascinating touristic and archaeological sites. Experts state that the number of tourists arriving in Jordan will reach two million within the next two years. This also



implies that the number of touristic projects, especially hotels will see a noticeable progress. The rooms of the five-star hotels will rise from 1036 to 2000 by 1999. Investors call on the government to provide Arab and foreign tourists with more facilities in getting visas to visit Jordan.

Among the huge touristic projects is Hayat/Amman five-star hotel, which is being built by the Zira Investment (Holding) Co., at a total cost of \$50 million. There are also two hotels, Sheraton and Al Shmeisani (three-stars) that are being built by the International Hotels and Commercial Markets Co., which was established at a JD 25 million capital. Other hotels are also under construction. These include the Hilton, Four Seasons and the Holiday Inn.

The labor force in the touristic sector in Jordan is estimated at 9000, and official sources anticipate that the revenues from this sector last year have reached \$750 million. Investors in tourism are calling on the government to embark on measurements to activate investments in this sector, through increasing tax and customs exemptions and establish a specialized bank to finance touristic investment (as is the case with the Export and Finance Bank). Also others call to establish academic and professional specialized institutions in hotel training and touristic services.

Reviving the course of the touristic sector requires the development of a tourism infrastructure. ■

Jordanian-European partnership agreement faces difficulties

AMMAN (Star)—Despite the fact that Jordan and the European Union (EU) have achieved progress in their negotiations to conclude Jordanian-EU partnership agreement that was to be signed by the end of last year, sources at the Ministry of Planning said that the signing was postponed.

According to the agreement, partnership has to be signed soon between the EU and the Middle East countries, among them Jordan, to establish a free trade zone by the year 2010. Hence, Jordanian industrial and agricultural products will be allowed to enter European countries free from customs tariffs.

However, there are still sticking issues making it difficult to sign the agreement this month. These would have to be settled first. The EU for instance calls on Jordan to shoulder the responsibility for Arab refugees who pass through the Kingdom on their way to Europe, by giving them Jordanian passports. This demand is rejected by Jordanian officials regarding it as a violation of Jordan's sovereignty.

The other thorny issue is the list of Jordan's agricultural commodities that are allowed to enter Europe. While Jordan requests the EU to expand the number of items to benefit its agricultural sector, EU members reject this request, arguing that it would threaten their agricultural interests in the region.

The EU also calls on Jordan to sign the Treaty of Intellectual Property Rights within five years of signing the partnership agreement (as stipulated in the World Trade Organization agreement). Observers believe that such a period is insufficient because Jordanian industrial products need more time to cope with the new situation.

Sources at the Ministry of Planning expect the two sides to meet shortly to discuss these pending issues and find out an outlet for the dispute. However, Mr Khaled Al-

Madadha, state minister for foreign affairs later denied there is any delay in signing the partnership agreement between Jordan and the EU.

On the contrary, he added, that the two sides are moving on successfully, pointing out that Dr Rima Khalaf, minister of planning had earlier stressed that the signing would be in mid-1997.

Similarly, the head of the European Delegation in Amman, Yves Gazzo stressed that the agreement is in its final stages and will be signed within few months. ■

First Islamic Investment Bank established in Bahrain at \$150 million

AMMAN (Star)—The first Islamic Investment Bank has just been established in Bahrain. It has a paid-up capital of \$150 million. The bank is a subsidiary of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC). The new bank seeks to become integrated into the mainstream banking operations in Bahrain. However, being Islamic in character, the bank aims to introduce new fiscal and investment tools that are aligned with its principles.

Sheikh Ahmed Abdul Latif, the corporations executive director, together with a full team, has taken the initiative to put together a detailed strategy to the corporation's 1997 agenda. The corporation is seeking to maintain its position in global banking by modernizing its organizational structure to cope with requirements of the world markets, besides focusing on traditional banking services.

In this respect, the new strategy is targeted at establishing the first banking fund for investing in stocks of public shareholding companies which are listed on Gulf stock exchanges.

The fund's capital is about \$25 million. Economic observers point out that over the last two years the ABC succeeded in overcoming external challenges and difficulties. It is considered by the American Treasury as the most successful bank to the Arab world. Shareholders rights in the corporation exceeded \$1.5 billion and it has managed to face such challenges by establishing sound centres in the Arab countries.

The ABC has 30 branches Corporation distributed all over the world, in addition to its subsidiaries, among them is the Spanish Atlantic Bank, the International Bank of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) in Britain, the ABC-bank in Jordan, and International Bank of Asia in Hong Kong.

■

Unemployment increases among civil engineers

A STUDY conducted by the Royal Scientific Society on the needs of the labor market for engineering graduates revealed that since the mid-1980s the average rate of unemployment rose to eight percent among civil engineers. This is attributed to the sharp increase in graduates. It rose by 12 percent, from 6497 engineers in 1980 to 35068 in 1995.

Students were interested in civil engineering rather than other branches from 1980 to 1985. However, this interest declined between 1985-1995 when students preferred to study electrical, mechanical, architectural and chemical engineering.

Such a phenomenon resulted from the increasing demand on these specializations in the labor market while this demand was too low in civil engineering. Working engineers were 23,000 in 1995, while the unemployed were 2000. This is in addition to the 10,000 engineers outside Jordan.

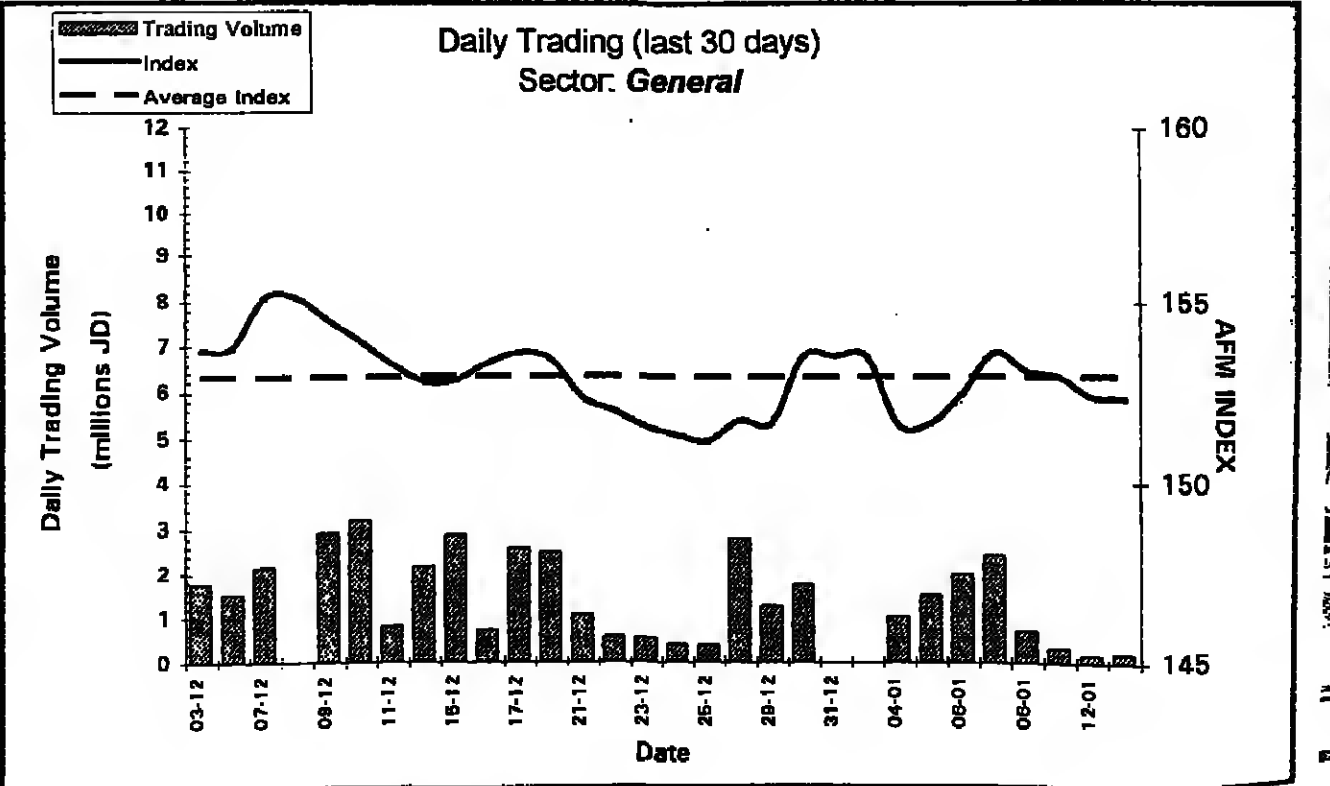
By the year 2005, the study expected a surplus in engineers reaching to 52759. In the first rank will come the architectural engineers who will account for the highest growth ratios followed by electrical, mechanical, chemical and civil engineers.

MARKET WATCH 11-14 January

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
↑ Poultry & Slaughter House 4.55 ↑ Arab Electrical 3.85 ↑ Paper & Cardboard 3.85		↑ Union Land Development 4.76 ↑ Paper & Cardboard Factories 2.78 ↑ United Engineering 2.44		↑ Arab Medical Appliances 3.17 ↑ National Industries 2.94 ↑ International Trade 2.04		↑ Arab Pharmaceutical Center 5.07 ↑ Arab Pharmaceuticals 2.86	
↓ International Trade 5.77 ↓ Namco 5.66 ↓ The Pearl 5.48		↓ Central Trade 5.66 ↓ Arab Hotels 5.05 ↓ National Lines 5.04		↓ Kawthar Investment 5.04 ↓ Jordan Tourism and Hotels 3.03 ↓ Housing Bank 2.92		↓ Nayzak Moulds 5.77 ↓ Jordan Printing 5.00 ↓ Ta'dino 4.64	
General Price Index 152.48		152.350		152.320		153	
Trade Volume 373740		258421		338900		559667	
Stock Volume 317716		292732		383685		634921	
Highest Traded Stocks		↑ United Land Transport 38336		↑ Arab Investments 62.307		↑ Middle East Complex 84.511	
↑ Union Investment 55590							

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949



Palestine Post

Output in PNA areas plummets

■ The Palestinian Monetary Authority revealed that Palestinian domestic output declined sharply from \$2.161 billion in 1995 to \$1.633 billion in 1996. This is due to the Israeli blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The 118 days of blockade have cost the Palestinian economy a loss of more than \$1.2 billion. A lot of workers were unable to get to their jobs. Per capita annual income in the West Bank and Gaza was estimated at \$652, which is very close to the official poverty level, that is \$650 per capita. The deficit in the budget of the Palestine National Authority rose from \$75 million in 1995 to \$195 million last year. The situation is likely to continue to worsen unless something drastic happens. What is needed is not only for Israel to allow Palestinians in its markets, but massive doses of outside financial injections which the PNA has already been promised.

First Arab satellite against normalization

■ A group of experts are presently conducting feasibility studies and technical preparations to establish the first Arab satellite station to fight the process of normalization with Israel. It is argued that Israel has slowly been creeping into the Arab world.

Informed sources expect this station to become operational either this year or next year. Any Arab anywhere from the Gulf to Morocco can receive directly the station's programs without any obligation to pay any contributions to the station.

This step came as a recommendation from the general conference to combat normalization with Israel, which has concluded its sessions earlier in Yemen.

Full plans are already underway to establish a location for the station together with its permanent technical staff, according to the Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Lawyers Union, Abdul Azeem Al Maghribi, who is also the rapporteur of the conference to combat normalization with Israel.

Al Maghribi added that according to the recommendations of Sana' (Yemen) conference, the next meeting will be convened in Cairo next 8 March. In addition to establishing the station, participants will discuss issuing an Arab periodical magazine that calls for resisting all attempts to normalize ties with Israel. Furthermore, they will tackle the possibility of establishing a data center according to the latest technological developments. The center will specialize in collecting data and preparing studies that can acquaint the Arab popular movement with "Israeli colonial plans and means to resist them."

If set up, the satellite station will be the first of its kind to fight normalization with Israel on a global level.

Enormous Israeli immigration to US

■ More and more people are leaving Israel to settle in the United States according to latest reports. The Israeli daily, *Yediot Ahronot* stated that there are 5000 people leaving Israel each year to settle in New York. However, there are much more Israelis who are settling in that city illegally. This movement has become worrisome and a topic of much discussion by Israel's decision-makers. From 1990 to 1994, 20,709 Israelis have immigrated from Israel to the US. In contrast, the number of Israeli immigrants to the US during the 1980s, did not exceed 85,000. Sources at the American Immigration Dept., say that between 1980-1994 about 50,000 Israelis have arrived in the USA and resided there illegally.

PNA denies Tel Aviv bombing

■ Palestinian President Yasser Arafat brushed off claims that a Palestinian group was responsible for the Tel Aviv bombings last week. However, a Popular Liberation Front spokesman said the bombings were a response for the recent attacks on Palestinians in Hebron. However, he denied that his group was responsible for the bombings.

Israel's border guards under scrutiny for violent acts

By Rebecca Trounson
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—It is known simply as "the videotape." And in this small, self-critical and image-conscious nation, it has become an infamous and instantly familiar symbol of injustice and oppression.

The 45-minute tape, filmed by a Palestinian in a nearby apartment, shows two Israeli border guards beating and humiliating six Palestinian laborers caught trying to enter Israel without work permits. When Israeli television aired the tape in November, Israelis and Palestinians alike reacted with shock and anger as they watched guards force the men to do pushups, kicked one in the head and sat, bouncing, on the head of another.

The beating, in a remarkable parallel to the Rodney King case, was aired here repeatedly and broadcast worldwide, creating an immediate uproar. Yet it is only the latest in a series of incidents that have raised concerns about the training, education and racial attitudes of those assigned to protect Israel from intrusion at a time of rising tensions with the Palestinians and the Arab world.

That border police violence against Palestinians is growing without question. The reasons,

though, are in dispute.

The Guard is a 9,000-strong paramilitary force that controls the checkpoints separating Israel from areas under the rule of Palestinian National Authority, and backs up the Israeli army and regular police in disputed areas.

According to figures released by the guard's commanding officers, incidents involving undue force against Palestinians jumped 21 percent in 1996. Recent cases have also tended to be more severe and referred for criminal prosecution more often than in the past, said a Justice Ministry official charged with investigating the incidents.

For years, Palestinians, and some Israelis, have asserted that members of the Border Guard routinely assault and degrade Arabs. Privately and in testimony to human rights groups, Palestinians have recounted numerous instances of verbal and physical abuse.

Palestinian officials see the current escalation as an indirect result of the election last May that brought to power Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a rightist-religious coalition government that has slowed the peace process with the Palestinians.

"We are not saying that Bibi Netanyahu told them to be tough with Arabs and beat them," said Ahmad Tibi, a senior adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "But we believe

that the policeman on the ground is seeing a green light from this government for a harder line against Arabs, and interpreting that in this way."

Israeli government officials and Border Guard commanders dismiss such statements as baseless, and say the reasons for the recent increases are more complex than that and rooted, in part, in the guards' evolving mission.

Although most of the thousands of daily contacts between guards and Palestinian civilians end peacefully, "the exceptions occur too often, and in numbers that should bother us in a democratic society," said Eran Schendar, who heads the Justice Ministry's department of investigations of police officers.

After a review prompted by the televised beating, Israeli Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair told defense and internal security ministers that he is convinced that guard violence against Arabs is a "widespread phenomenon." Further, the data involving such incidents paints a "grim picture of a deep-rooted tradition of violence by the border police against Arabs, simply because they are Arabs," Ben-Yair said in a letter. "There are those who hold that the same phenomenon exists, albeit in lesser dimensions, within the framework of other (Israeli) security forces."

The attorney general also said



Israeli violence against Palestinians continues

those convicted of abuse should be punished more harshly than in the past.

Of 304 cases opened in 1996 for unlawful use of force, 73 were closed because the petitioners did not cooperate with the investigation. 47 were closed for lack of evidence and 26 were dismissed as unjustified. In 33 cases, guards were prosecuted. In 14 others, they were referred for disciplinary action and the rest remain under

investigation.

Schendar and others said the numbers would undoubtedly be higher if many Palestinians were not too fearful to complain to Israeli authorities. "The system doesn't work well," Schendar said. "If they had a bad experience, it could be they wish not to speak to us. But we are really eager to talk to them and find out the facts."

Guard commanders and Justice Ministry officials interviewed recently condemned the violence and said they are trying, through increased training and educational seminars, to combat the trend. Border Guard trainees, who already received specialized police and anti-terrorism classes along with six months of basic training, will now be given expanded instruction in such areas as when to use force, officials said.

Nevertheless, they cited several reasons for the escalation, including the changing mission of the Guard because of the peace process, a declining ratio of career officers to conscripts and lingering anger over September gun battles between Palestinians and Israelis, including many border police.

More than 75 people died and about 1,000 were wounded in that violence, which flared across the West Bank and Gaza Strip after Israel's opening of a tunnel entrance in Jerusalem's Old City.

"One reason for these events is the frustration that develops in the field, the hostility (the border police) feel" from the Palestinian population, said Brig. Gen. Nir Tsafir, who commands the Jerusalem region's 1,250 guards.

In a September report, the Israeli human rights group

B'Tselem described 11 incidents in which Palestinians aged 13 to 48 complained of beatings or mistreatment by Israeli security forces, including nine by border police. The cases, all in June and July, raised "the fact that the hands of the authorities are being freed, particularly those of the police, regarding Palestinians from the occupied territories," the report said.

The allegations gained new credibility with the Israeli public and acknowledgment from the government after the Nov. 18 broadcast of the amateur videotape by Channel 1 TV. Government officials, including Netanyahu, denounced the two guards shown in the tape and declared that such abuse "is not typical of the behavior of Israeli security forces toward Palestinian civilians."

The guards, David Ben-Ari, 20, and Tzahi Shmua'ya, 19, are awaiting trial on charges of aggravated assault and abuse of power. They are being held under house arrest.

Four other guards were charged the same day in connection with the beating in June of another Palestinian caught in Israel without a permit to be there. The man was taken to a wooded area and, according to the charges, beaten on the head with a baton until the baton broke and he lost consciousness.

Human rights activists and Palestinian officials dispute assertions by Netanyahu and others that the treatment of Palestinians exhibited in either incident is unusual, and have said they feel vindicated by the statements and figures later released by Justice Ministry officials.



Chairman of the Palestinian Airlines Brig. Fayed, Zaydan (Center), Shaikh Youssef of the Palestinian authorities (second from left) and the pilots of the airline. The plane was on its maiden flight to Saudi Arabia carrying Palestinian pilgrims. It was due to fly from the Gaza strip last Friday, but technical delays by Israel meant that it had to fly from Egypt.

Pragmatism wins the day in Hebron

Netanyahu's slow political evolution takes him from extreme right to center right

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday renounced the dream that defined and divided Israeli politics for a generation.

The dream was his own, and that of his Likud Party, which has governed Israel according to its demands for 16 of the last 20 years. It saw an Israel unchallenged in sovereignty from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, with all of the West Bank in its hands. That vision animated Netanyahu's whole political life, and he ascended to Likud Party leadership as its foremost public voice.

Wednesday, perceiving no choice, he set it aside. Having led his political movement to power, Netanyahu gave it two shocks that already have begun to tear it in half.

First, he consented to withdraw from most of Hebron, the city at the center of Israel's biblical claim to the West Bank. Second, and more fateful,

Netanyahu agreed to transfer large if unspecified rural stretches of the occupied territory to Palestinian control by late next year.

Netanyahu's core supporters

might have forgiven him for shaking Yasser Arafat's hand in September, depriving him of the long-time argument that there was no one to talk to about compromise. But many said they cannot forgive—or even quite believe—that their standard-bearer is handing real assets to what he so often called the emerging "PLO terrorist state."

"That's about the end of what we call the Land of Israel movement," said Yisrael Harel, founder and former chairman of the Yesha Council, the umbrella movement of Jewish settlers in the West Bank. "It means that all our efforts in the last 30 years are in vain. ... It is better to bring down this government than allow this government to bring down our beliefs."

In fact, the governing coalition is on the brink of self-destruction over Wednesday's accord. Many of Netanyahu's 66 legislators in the 120-seat parliament are expected to desert him when the pact comes to a vote, though support from the Labor Party and other left-of-center factions will ensure he survives a vote of confidence. There also remained a possibility that Netanyahu's cabinet—divided eight to seven so far, with three still wavering—would reject the new pact. That would likely force Netanyahu to enter painful talks with the opposition to form a new government.

"It doesn't mean that a national unity government is inevitable, but it does mean that Netanyahu has positioned himself smack in the middle of the Israeli political spectrum," Dore Gold, his chief foreign-policy adviser, said in an interview. "He will require the backing of the center-left in order to advance his center-right agenda."

What brought Netanyahu so far, so fast, remains a matter of intense debate in Israel.

Gold argued that Netanyahu has proved "that when he says he's committed to agreements that his predecessors

Gold said, Netanyahu's rightist credentials enabled him "to deliver something"—the Hebron withdrawal—which his predecessors, factually, didn't deliver.

Ehud Barak, the favorite to succeed Shimon Peres as leader of the opposition Labor Party, said he doubted Netanyahu is "crossing the Rubicon" to sincere commitment to the peace talks pioneered by Peres and the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He said it galls him, even so, to see Netanyahu "adopting one by one the same steps he described as crimes when they were taken by Rabin." Barak's campaign against Netanyahu's re-election, he said, will describe the Likud leader as "a usurper," adding, "You stole power, and we don't have trust in your character."

Netanyahu has made clear in public and private remarks that his bedrock beliefs have not changed. He reiterated to Israel Bond rabbis this month, for example, that the Oslo accord on which Wednesday's pact was based was "a bad agreement" that his predecessors should not have signed.

Yitzhak Shamir, the last Likud prime minister, said in an interview from retirement that Netanyahu has showed himself to be weak—abandoning "all the ideas of his movement" in order "to please the United States."

"In my opinion every agreement with Arafat and every concession to the Arabs can only weaken Israel, and not strengthen it," he said.

"I don't know who invented the principle that the decisions of the previous government have to be fulfilled," he added in another interview. "That is insane and malicious." Asked whether Israel should reconquer Nablus and Jericho, whose transfer to Arafat a year ago he called a "great mistake," Shamir replied, "No signed, he



comment."

Seven months of go-slow talks, three of which passed before Netanyahu consented to meet Arafat, have led to the premier's grudging acknowledgement that there is only one available peace partner among the Palestinians and one basic frame of reference for their talks.

The costs of renouncing the talks altogether, first and foremost in broad Israeli public support, are higher than Netanyahu is prepared to pay. Polls have consistently shown that a large majority of Israelis support the Oslo accord and want the peace process to continue.

"The public understands," the mass circulation Maariv newspaper editorialized, "that the alternative to the peace process is intifada (Palestinian uprising), terror, Israel's isolation in the international community, economic collapse, and in the

war against the Arab world."

Ron Pundak, the Tel Aviv historian who, with fellow academic Yair Hirschfeld, launched Israel's secret diplomacy with the PLO in 1993, rooted strongly for Peres to defeat Netanyahu last spring. In retrospect, he said, "it may be that historians a hundred years from now will decide that this period is a very good period for the peace process, and I emphasize the word process rather than peace. The prime minister, whether he likes it or not, has given the partner on the other side, and the process itself, legitimacy."

Asked why Netanyahu would do such a thing, Pundak replied with the universal imperative of democratic politics.

"He would like to be elected again," Pundak said. "I believe his drive for success is stronger than his ideology."



© 1997 PHOTOFEST. COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES. REPRODUCTION, ANY FORM, IS PROHIBITED.

كانا من العرب



● A picture showing princess Diana, ex-wife of Prince Charles of Wales accompanied by her two sons princes William and Harry on their recent skiing trip.



Muhammad Shaker

An artist with eye on roots

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

When I returned home from Rome, I saw Iraqi women washing pots and clothes in the Euphrates, the scene was inspiring," said Iraqi artist Muhammad Ali Shaker, who is displaying his graphics and oil paintings at the Orient House Gallery in Al Shmeisani. With these words in mind, one would say that the themes and motifs of Shaker's exhibition which opened yesterday, is extracted from the pulse of Iraqi everyday life.

Live pictures from tradition constitute the essential part of Shaker's creativity. He impressionistically features different aspects of Iraqi's daily affairs and dealings. The surrounding nature seems to have captured his senses, and appearing in most of his paintings. Going back to nature signifies the artist yearning for belonging. He can no more assimilate the brutality of modern life and thus he responds innately to nature. Shaker said "nature is an amalgam of indivisible purity and beauty."

Dubbed by Iraqi critics as the 'colorist', Shaker is fully aware of the relation between the different colors in his painting. Color congruity and yet interrelation produce a tight structure. In these representations the artist builds up his compositions using exact proportions. This might lead some to view his works as passive and lacking dynamism, yet a thorough look will prove otherwise.

The color structure celebrates rather than hints at certain moments experienced by the average Iraqi. Every part of the painting's structure is highlighted in a way or another. Even sadness is celebrated as a major element of Iraqi culture. In this respect, it is becoming evident that Shaker employed the traditional aspects at his best. "Despite the fact that I travelled abroad for years, I think what affects my way of paint



ing the most is the tradition of my country," he stressed.

As to the graphic paintings of Shaker, he makes use of the lithographic techniques he masters. Here appears a tendency towards intensifying the elements of the painting thus giving the possibility of different interpretations. Being a calligraphist, Shaker inserts the Arabic letter in his graphics but "without repetition." What I did, he added, is that I took the Arabic letter out

from its passivity while retaining the basic rules of this art."

Unlike other artists who become infatuated with modern abstract techniques, Shaker remains faithful to representation. He said that every artist has his own beliefs and visions that distinguish him from other artists. Simplicity is the word with which we can best describe his works, however, his realistic creations are not at all complex.

From a different perspective, his works can be seen as a sort of historical documents. They bring about detailed visualization of settings that are typical of Iraqi life. Above all there is concentration on the Iraqi woman as a mother and a sister referring indirectly to family bonds.

With a rich memory and unconsciously implanted association with the homeland, Shaker creates true pictures of birthplace. He clings to the land where he was born and has introduced images that continue to be with him till this moment. This divides his painting into two parts, one that is created by the educated Shaker with a deep perception of art and its various elements, the other by his spontaneous response to the power of nature.

Shaker says that no matter where one travels, the first images he sees remain memorable.

Shaker criticizes abstract art saying that it is "deceptive." He added that abstract art lacks knowledge about basic artistic rules such as perspective and composition. Moreover, "they are not oriented enough about the history of art and that what makes the abstract an easy type of painting for them."

An Iraqi painter and art critic Shaker Hassan Al Saad described

Shaker's works as "a metaphysical contemplation in evaluation of existence."

Shaker was born in Hilla 1934 and graduated from the Institute of Fine Art in Baghdad in 1957. After teaching art for four years he won a scholarship to study art in Italy. Spending four years in Rome, he received three degrees in painting, etching and lithography. He held a number of exhibitions in Baghdad and Rome and won several prizes. ■

SCRAPBOOK

By Bilal Hijawi

Immigration coffins

BEFORE I had a chance to light up my first cigarette at Amman's international airport, my escort home bellowed his question, "why did you come back?" I was arriving from Washington, DC. He was also my business partner and of all people, I thought he anxiously awaited my return to Amman. Evidently, he did not.

One hundred days had passed in the US before I packed and flew back to Amman, a mighty long visit if you ask me. I tried to live on the fringes of America's whirl, and its bustle and tussle. I kept the memory of home alive and shunned America's sinful detachment from the rest of the world and, ironically, its lure too. I tried hard not to give any serious thoughts to permanent designs, thus keeping the mind and heart of a business tourist alive. It wasn't an easy struggle.

Like many in Jordan, I studied in the US and had lived there for some time after graduation. I knew what to expect, and expected little. Years earlier, I had irretrievably siphoned out the idea of immigrating altogether. I've turned my psychological dials to an Arabist setting, deciding after graduation in 1990, that I didn't need the West to aspire.

Today, I search for reasons to believe that my old choice is still valid, that home is still the right choice; that hard work and focus will bring about a good future. But deep inside, I know something has changed to the worst in me. My faith of home is much weaker. Why am I saying all this?

It's my friends, if you care to hear. They ardently impose their views on my say-no-to-immigration personal preference. Like my business associate, my friends asked me why I'd decided to come back?

To them, I'm guilty of coming back home. In earlier normal times, the question, which really says ditch home and serve a system built on the ruins of ours, would have been anathema to me. But with time, one begins to see the erosion that permeates their question.

Our times, you know, have moved into warped and negative times. Spiritual numbness has taken over; belonging and pride are nothing more than words, tirelessly used and abused in a media with a mind of its own. So you tend to understand the agonies of my friends and excuse their stand.

You're probably asking what type of people I have for friends?

For starters, they're not the children of a lesser society. They have a plan. They own cars; their families are Jordan's capable middle class; they possess energy and work hard; they keep good jobs and some even have girlfriends. Most of them travel often. They also could be our hope for the future. You'd expect them to pass the torch, not to put it off.

Nevertheless, I apologized for my seeming homecoming madness. And here I'm back in Amman in soul, shoes and a new bent sense of reality. The decision to toil with my genetic destiny has stricken many as plain, dumb and weird.

Only one good friend supported my orphan conviction about home! Admittedly, he told me "I'll keep banging my head against Amman's thick wall until one of them cracks open."

After 12 years of his bloody sport, he has survived and is somewhat happier today. His peace was born from a saga of lengthy anxiety bouts, coupled with an emotional tinspin that almost crashed him. He himself may have excavated some answers, but for most other here the answers remain in the crypt.

Indeed, my one friend is a minority here. The others are the greener land party, which includes an alarming number of Jordanians. They dream of and chart escape routes to elsewhere. Their profile transcends income, religious, political, ethnic, sex and age class. They weigh heavy on our nation's intellectual and spiritual scales. They live on a countdown status: zero-hour is immigration. I don't need a survey in my armpit to prove my point.

I saw them once as the cookies in the jar. They once believed, had faith and a great outlook on life. The fact that they've become dust in the jar, is perhaps your mistake.

When they condemned my return home they spoke volumes to me, if you care to listen. The very question of my coming back, reflects their lost identity. It reflects their fragmented soul. It reflects their total growing distrust of the system, and its future.

Their question says we live a situation of total insecurity and low national esteem. It says the ears of the masters of our destiny are sealed with dollars and cents. It says their mouths are stuffed with unread legal manuscripts.

Their question implores the keepers of our gate not to lie, nor to deceive or manipulate. It speaks of their intellectual despair. Their question begs for mercy from gods; they did not appoint. It begs for a workable transparent system for all. It says our spirit is sickened by our vanishing dreams and dwindling expectations. They say just let us be, and put us at the helm of our ship.

I myself, have stayed the course, advising my friends "life is what you make of it." I also said, but we are the system. I said "our good lives will only be achieved through local imagination." That the fruits of George Washington belong to those who watered the tree.

I said we will need to say no to generic complaining, and look for effective remedies. That the oral betrayal of home and self is wrong. That we need to dust the book of home and add new chapters to it. That it is never too late to change.

My friends stopped asking me why I've come back home? But have made a clear they're least interested in my optimistic views. A few told me to stay in hell! The rest are too busy preparing their immigration coffins. ■

Ramadan activities kick off at the RCC

AMMAN (Star)—Without any doubt the holy month of Ramadan offers more than just purity of mind and heart. All over the Arab and Islamic world, this month has a set of rituals which Muslims celebrate each in their own way.

Amman however has its fair share this year. Jordan Television has just prepared special cultural and entertainment programs. The Amman coffeshops, which are on the increase these days, open almost all night for those who like to have a hubble bubble or hot drinks. The cultural centers on their part have teamed up to present their Ramadan activities including poetry evenings, music concerts, folklore dancing, book fairs, etc.

The Royal Cultural Center (RCC) has released lately its Ramadan Program. The activities will take place in conjunction with other cultural directorates in the different governorates of the Kingdom. Also the Egyptian Embassy will be presenting a

play in addition to other local plays.

The Director of the Center Mr. Mahmoud Fadel Al Tai said that a painting exhibition by Jordanian painters from the governorates will be held between 12 till 30 January.

The Hanounah folklore group presented already their dances and songs last Monday while the Iraqi renowned oud player Munir Bashir performed yesterday at the main theater. A poetry evening was held yesterday and an embroidery exhibition was presented.

Today, Thursday, the Karak governorate group will hold a ceremony at the main theater. The Russian pianist, Constantine Orbelian is expected to give a performance this Saturday. The Madaba folklore group presents its concert Sunday 19 January. It will also hold an exhibition of Mosaic and handicrafts.

A play entitled *Ka Anak Ya Abu Zaid* will take place between 18 till 23 January

at the circular theater.

The Irbid folklore group will give a performance on 20 January followed by the Ajloun group the following day. Maan group will be performing on 23 January while the French pianist Philippe Giustino is to perform on 25 January. Al Mafraq governorate will have its performance held on 26 January at the main theater followed by Al Taflich group the day after.

Al Hannounah will have more two performances between 28 and 29 January at the main theater. On 30 January an evening will be held by Al Aqaba group. The Zarqa folklore group will perform on 1 February at the main theater.

Laila Fantasia (Fantasy Night) is the title of the play to be presented by the Egyptian Embassy between 1 and 6 February at the circular theater. Also the embassy will hold an art exhibition during the same period. ■

Cycling the globe for children, fighting AIDS



Boudreau on his bicycle

AMMAN (Star)—Mr. Bertrand Boudreau, a Canadian citizen, a Canadian citizen, has arrived in Jordan this week, cycling his way around the world trying to inform, educate, and encourage protection to stop the progress of AIDS and generate compassion for HIV/AIDS infected individuals. According to Mr. Boudreau, it is the birth of his daughter, the greatest gift of his life, which made him decide, a few years later, to embark on the "Save our Children from AIDS Cycling Tour." Seeing parents and children suffering because of AIDS/HIV, he decided something had to be done.

Mr. Boudreau started his tour on 1 August, 1994, and relies on personal donations from the people he meets along the way to support the tour. He also encourages local population to give donations to local organizations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention program or in research. So far, Mr. Boudreau has travelled 45,000 kilometers on his bicycle, through North and Central America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East and hopes to and his tour in Canada in summer 1995.

In Jordan, Mr. Boudreau has received sponsorship from Dar Al Dawa which will enable him to reach Dubai, his next destination.

Anyone who would like to help spread the message of education and protection against HIV/AIDS can send contributions to the Jordanian Society for Family Planning and Protection. (Tel: 678, 083, 660-482, P.O. Box 8066). ■

Jordan Year in Paris promises to be an event to remember

AMMAN (Star)—The 1977 Jordanian Year in Paris is to start from March to October. It seeks to introduce Jordanian art and handicrafts to the French public. A number of cultural activities are featured including traditional handicrafts and a contemporary art exhibition at the famous *Grande Magasin Le Printemps* as.

The "Archaeology and Science" exhibition, organized by Electricite de France (EDF), will be held at the Arab World Institute in Paris. This includes reconstructions of excavations at major archaeological sites in Jordan, a reproduction of the Babylonian stele near Tafila, a presentation on the Hellenistic site of Iraq Al Amir. It will also give a 3-D computer simulation of the temple of Zeus in Jerash, the Madaba mosaics and the restoration of Umayyad frescoes of Qasir Amra.

A contemporary art exhibition titled *Voyage on Jordanie* will be held at the St Jean Hall at City Hall (Hotel de Ville). It shows art works by modern artists, in addition to archaeological pieces, costumes, rugs, and handicrafts. One room is used to exhibit the photos of Petra. It will be opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Mrs Chirac on 11 March 1997 and will run until 11 May 1997.

An exhibition and sale of Jordanian products will take place at the Printemps department store. On display will be handicrafts, pottery, glass, and jewelry. These items were bought by the Printemps and will be sold to the public with the exception of a collection of traditional Jordanian costumes by Widad Kassar, which were lent to Printemps. The Jordan Tourism Board and Royal Jordanian will also set up

an office at the Printemps.

Performances and films on Jordan's tourism, history and lifestyle will be displayed. This is in cooperation with the Design and Trade Center of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Including Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs. It will be opened by Queen Noor and Mrs Chirac on 12 March and run until April 1997.

An Archaeology exhibition will be held at the Arab World Institute between June till October 1997. The exhibition will focus on different periods in Jordanian history and the emerging technologies which have contributed to mankind. The exhibited sites include statues from Ein Ghazal. Bronze and Iron Ages; the Moabite, Edomite and Ammonite Kingdoms, the stele of Tafila, Hellenistic and Nabataean sites; Jerash, Mount Nebo, a Byzantine site, Qasir Amra and Um Al Walid, Umayyad sites.

A scientific three-day colloquium will be held at the Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies in June 1997. These will be held at the Arab World Institute.

The House of the World's of Cultures will host a performance of traditional Jordanian music. The performance will be in three parts to illustrate the richness and diversity of Jordanian music. The first part will have songs from Aqaba, the second



music from the desert and the third music from the north.

A meeting of French and Jordanian businessmen organized jointly by the French Ministry of Finance (Poste d'Expansion Economique in Amman) and Jordan's Ministry of Trade and Industry will probably take place in the Printemps. It will allow French companies to discover Jordan's possibilities as a regional economic crossroad. Minister of Trade and Industry, Ali Abu Ragheb, will give a presentation during the meeting.

The private sector could help to finance the promotional campaign in France (publicity in the metro, posters on buses). It will sponsor raffle prizes, which include a stay of one week in Jordan for four couples. It will partly finance the stay of a team of 12 French journalists and chief editors who will be visiting Jordan. ■

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, The New Collection at the Dar Al Funun, continues till 27 February.

■ Works by Muhammad Ali Shaker at The Orient House, Shmeisani, continues till 30 January.

■ Mini Bazaar and open house at Um El Kundum, Lithographs, old postcards and photographs on Jerusalem, Chinese paintings, arts and crafts, fresh farm produce, off the Airport highway on the way to the Arabian Horse Club, first left at the top of the hill, Friday 17 January from 11:00 am till 5:00 pm. Tel: 664805.

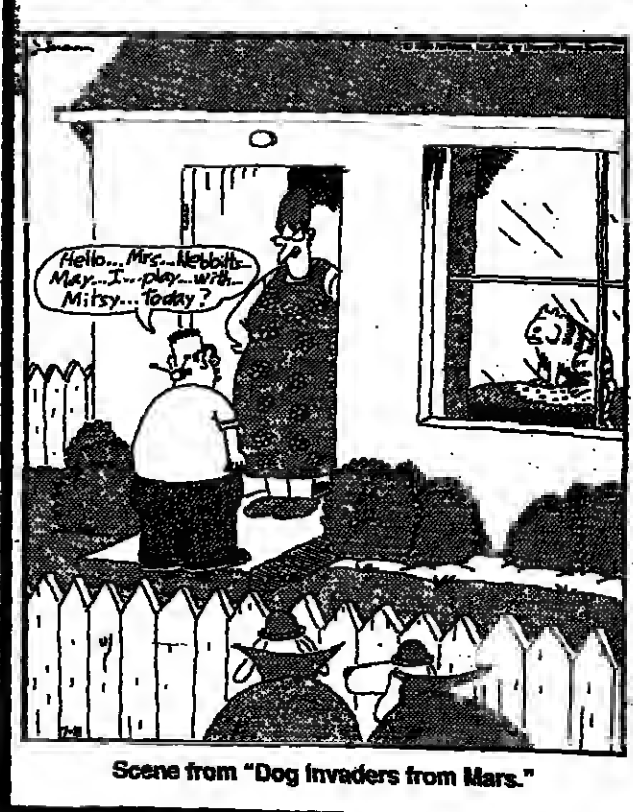


■ L'Institut du Monde Arabe at The French Cultural Center, runs from 20 January till 6 February.

■ La vie et rien d'autre at the French Cultural Center, 20 January, at 8:30 pm.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



CROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 18-24 January

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:35—Cartoon
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Chris Cross
4:50—Feature Film: *Cry Wilderness*, starring Eric Foster and Maurine Grand Maison
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:05—Documentary
5:30—The Muppet Show
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Hanging with Mr. Cooper (Comedy)
8:02—Oriental Rugs (Doc)
8:30—Prism
9:10—Lois & Clark
9:30—Superman
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Journey Into Islam
11:00—Magyver
11:50—Feature Film: *Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid*, Starring: Bob Dylan and Kris Kristofferson
01:05—Ramadan Talks

SUNDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Jonny Quest (Cartoon)
2:00—French Programs
2:30—The Famous Five
3:00—Feature Film: *Disaster on the Potomac* (Flight 90)
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—You Bet Your Life
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:02—Oriental Rugs (Doc)
8:30—Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)
9:10—Tycoons (Doc)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Islam in a Changing

World
11:00—Hot Shots
11:30—Switched at Birth (Mini Series)
01:05—Ramadan Talks

MONDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Cartoon
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Deepwater Haven
3:00—Feature Film: *Transylvania*, starring Jeff Goldblum and Carol Kane
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—I Love Lucy
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Rosanne
8:00—Documentary
8:30—Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)
9:10—Extreme Pilot (Adventure Drama)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Journey Into Islam
11:00—Under Suspicion
11:50—Switched at Birth part 2 (Mini Series)
01:15—Ramadan Talks

TUESDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Captain Planet
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Cyclone Tracy
3:00—Feature Film: *Inspector General*, starring Danny Kaye and Walter Slezak
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—You Bet Your Life
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines



Journey Into Islam, Daily at 10:25 pm

7:35—Murphy Brown
8:00—Oriental Rugs (Doc)
8:30—Encounter
9:10—The Lost Civilizations (Doc)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Islam in a Changing World
11:00—Snowy River
11:30—Rage of Angel (Mini Series)
01:05—Ramadan Talks

WEDNESDAY
1:00—Holy Koran
1:05—Min Alhadi Al Mohammadi
1:30—Cartoon
2:00—French Programs
2:30—Escape from Jupiter (Science Fiction)
3:00—Feature Film: *White Water Rebels*, starring Catherine Bach and James Brolin
4:50—Link with Channel 1 for sunset prayer and Iftar
5:30—The Muppet Show
6:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): Daylight
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): First Knight
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): Al Huroub Ila Alqaimma (Arabic) Ransom
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): Bad Boys
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): Custom Made Citizen

Highlight of the week at the Pleasure Dome

● **Blown Away:** Jeff Bridges and Academy award-winner Tommy Lee Jones (1993 Best Supporting Actor) —The Fugitive lights a fuse under this action-packed "tension-filled-edge-of-the-seat thriller which will hold you hostage for 120 electrifying minutes" (Luis B. Hobson, The Calgary Sun). When an explosion jolts the city of Boston, bomb squad expert Jimmy Dove (Jeff Bridges) is pulled out of an early retirement and into the most harrowing work of his career. Evidence points to a bomber more dangerous and skilled than any he's ever faced—except one. The possibility that the terrorist is his former mentor (Tommy Lee Jones) increases the stakes—and as his friends and family are unsuspectingly drawn into the action, Jimmy is forced to face not only his bitter enemy but also his haunting past. Fueled with dynamic support by Lloyd Bridges (The Hot Shots movies), Forest Whitaker (The Crying Game) and Stacy Amis (Rich in Love), Blown Away "is the action film you don't want to miss" (Mark McEwen, "CBS This Morning"). Don't let time run out!

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"
Tel: 676558 - Fax: 5538087



ORIGINAL Video Releases

■ **FRIDAY:** A very clever comedy based on the events of one Friday in a black neighborhood. The dialogue is original with some wisdom every now and then. P.S. check the father and thank your lucky stars you don't have one like that!!

■ **LEAVING LAS VEGAS:** It won Nicholas Cage "Best actor" Oscar and a nomination for Susan Shue. This brilliant film has one clear message: No matter how desperate one is, there is always room for love.

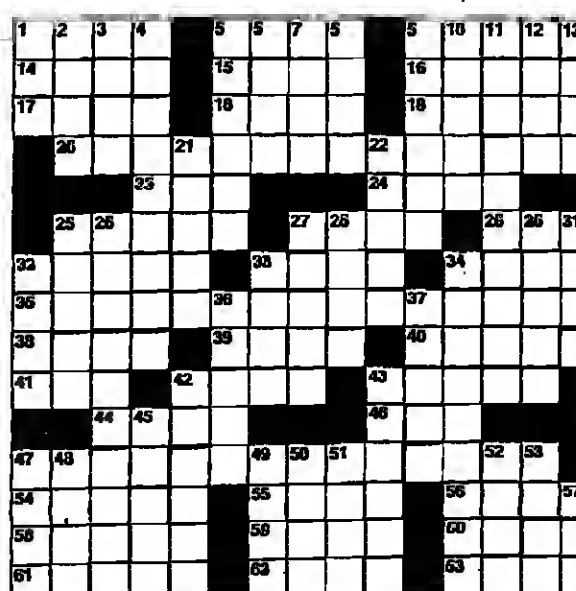
■ **THE CROW:** The film that was a technological breakthrough in the history of cinema. Brandon Lee (Son of the legendary Bruce Lee) died during the shooting of this film but computer wizards made sure he finished his job.

■ **WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:** If you like Sandra Bullock, you will love her in this light-hearted feature about a station attendant (Sandra) who falls in love with the brother of her dream man—whom she saves from certain death.

Also available are musical videos from Louis Armstrong to Beatles to Pink Floyd, Santana, Metallica, R.E.M. up to Hootie & The Blowfish.

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"
Tel: 676558 - Fax: 5538087

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1. Block
 5. Florida county
 9. — Ste. Marie
 14. Temp
 15. Stand out
 16. Rich males
 17. Industrial basin
 18. Certain law officer
 19. Rationally
 20. Forensic
 22. Possessive
 24. Spartan queen
 25. Andrea del
 27. Portray
 29. — the season
 32. Great success
 33. Assistant
 34. Annoying thing
 35. Odds play
 38. Gen. Robt.
- DOWN**
39. Pitcher
 40. As — (usually)
 41. D.C. VIP
 42. Practice boxing
 43. Like an old woman
 44. Large part of the world
 45. On the — (usually)
 47. Improbable
 54. — light (electron-arc lamp)
 55. Hamilton foe
 58. Dream light
 59. Actress Jessica
 60. Lab burner
 61. Furry
 62. Coaster
 63. Hollow stalk
 64. DOWN
 65. Med. procedure
 66. Transport
 67. Unimort
 68. Make holy
 69. Actor Robert
 70. To — (with no exception)
 71. Bike type
 72. Engrave
 73. Ill-humored
 74. So as to be heard
 75. Not appreciative
 76. Secular
 77. Kind of school abbr.
 78. Musical direction
 79. Author or inventor
 80. The Great
 81. Military entertainment
 82. End's state: abbr.
 83. — Baller
 84. Westerns
 85. Brimming
 86. Factual
 87. Recently
 88. Beach sight
 89. Small boy

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun's gone into Aquarius, the sign of the scholar. These are the people who gave us the Industrial Revolution. Aries (March 21-April 19). This is a good time for writing projects. Get all your housework done too. Hustle so you'll be prepared. Taurus (April 20-May 20). Pay the bills whether you want to or not. If you don't have enough money, send as much as you can afford. Gemini (May 21-June 21). You're amazingly imaginative and witty. Get as much as possible down on paper. Drive farther than usual to get a good deal. Cancer (June 22-July 22). You'll start feeling up to par. You'll be strong. That's good, because you may have financial hassles. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Meet with friends now; you won't have time later. The push is on. If you have a partner to help it'll be more fun. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Authority figures will be hard to catch, but if you can, you might get a favor. Club meetings and impromptu gatherings with friends dominate. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get out for a breath of air with a dear friend. You'll stay busy keeping an older person happy. Don't complain — it's good for you. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Find the money you need to fix up your place. Complete a big assignment and make lots of points. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Let your partner make the play. If you need money, you may be able to find it. An older person wants more of your attention. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Work hard and get your correspondence out. Resolve your differences with your mate. Pay debts and find a way to bring in more money. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Romance looks good but you'll be almost too busy to flirt. These days could be a hassle — save your major decisions for later. Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Watch out for a spill at home. Your life gets easier. You're looking good and it shows. Things don't go the way you planned.

IF YOU'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK: Love leads to work this year, but that's OK. Set a big goal you can achieve together.

COMMON SENSE
THE COLLECTION OF
PEOPLE'S
SAYINGS

Bridge

Play Or Defend?
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

North-South vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 9 5
♥ J 10 6 4 2
♦ 6 3
♣ Q J 4
EAST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ 8 3
♦ K J 8 5
♣ K 10 7 5
SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 6
♥ A K Q
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ Void

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 2♣ Pass
2♥ Pass 4♠ Pass
6♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
Study the four hands in the diagram above. Would you rather declare or defend six spades after the lead of a low trump?
Note North's jump to four spades after the artificial and strong two-club opening and the two-diamond denial. It showed good trump support while at the same time denying a first- or second-round control in any side suit. South elected to bid the slam anyway. Since the bidding guaranteed a trump entry to the table, the contract rated to be no worse than on a finesse.
Declarer won the opening lead in dummy with the nine, and finessed the queen of diamonds, losing to the king. Back came another trump, East signaling with the nine of clubs. Since the hearts could provide two discards with a trump as a cotry, declarer tried to clear the three high hearts from the closed hand. Unfortunately West ruffed — down one.
That does not mean that you should elect to defend. Given the trump lead, there was a better line available that, once trumps were no worse than a 3-2 heart split. Win the opening lead in dummy and lead the queen of clubs, discarding a high heart from hand no matter what East plays. Best defense is for East to rise with the ace of clubs and shift to a diamond. However, declarer can foil that by winning with the ace and cashing the two remaining high hearts. After playing off a high trump in hand, declarer crosses to the table with the queen of trumps to discard three diamonds on the good hearts. This makes six odd.

TRUE! By Daryl Cagle



Smiling and telling a lie is convincing among children until age 7; above that age, smiling is associated with lying.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SCOTI
PHECO
TILPUF
GLOONB



ANSWER: SCOTI SCOTI SCOTI SCOTI
PHECO PHECO PHECO PHECO
TILPUF TILPUF TILPUF TILPUF
GLOONB GLOONB GLOONB GLOONB

Words of Wisdom

The first and last mistake in any relationship is to try to change the qualities to which you were drawn in the first place.

...
What's wrong with changing one's mind? It would be a sorry world if opinion never evolved.

...
Opportunity favors the prepared.

...
To wait and to hope are the ultimate acts of faith.

...
The infrequent pleasures are the sweetest.

...
No one has the right to do as he pleases unless he pleases to do right.

Subscribe to The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

And save!!

Name: _____

Position: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

P.O.Box: _____ Country: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

☐ Home Delivery ☐ Local Mail ☐ Air Mail

The Star
Tel. 652380 / 645380 Fax. 648298
P.O. Box. 9313 Amman (11191) Jordan
E-mail: Star@nets.com.jo
Star@arabia.com

Jordan: JD 20 (Home delivery or by Post)
Arab countries: US\$ 75,
Europe - USA - Canada - Australia: US\$ 100.

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Un danger croissant de guerre

● Selon le directeur du Centre d'études stratégiques de l'Université de Tel-Aviv, Israël fait face à un danger de guerre avec la Syrie. « Si l'impasse dans les discussions se poursuit, les dangers d'une guerre vont augmenter de façon significative », a estimé mardi Zeev Maoz. « Les Syriens tentent de moderniser leurs armements afin de disposer d'une option militaire contre Israël », a-t-il déclaré au cours d'une conférence de presse.

En décembre, le chef d'Etat-major adjoint israélien, le général Moshe Vinitzky, avait déjà parlé d'un risque accru de guerre avec la Syrie cette année, mais il avait été démenti par son supérieur, le général Amnon Shahak, qui avait tenu à rassurer la population.

Les pourparlers entre Israël et la Syrie, dirigés par Hafez el-Assad (voir photo) sont gelés depuis près d'un an. Damas exige la restitution du plateau du Golan, conquis en 1967, mais le Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu se refuse à la moindre concession territoriale dans cette région.

Le précédent gouvernement travailliste de Yitzhak Rabin et Shimon Peres s'étaient en revanche déclarés prêts à des « concessions territoriales significatives ». Selon M. Maoz, l'arrivée de M. Netanyahu au pouvoir a contribué à augmenter les périls stratégiques pour Israël.

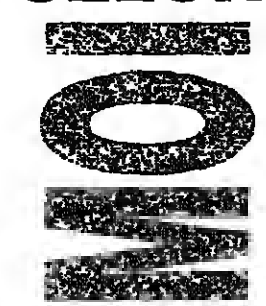


Jordanie

Une délicate normalisation face à la politique d'Israël

Deux fois reportée, la foire commerciale destinée à promouvoir des produits israéliens en Jordanie a finalement eu lieu cette semaine. Une manifestation qui a provoqué une importante campagne de protestation en Jordanie, une grande partie de la population refusant la normalisation des relations avec l'Etat hébreu alors qu'Israël ne respecte pas les accords de paix signés avec les Palestiniens.

SELON



N'ayant rien à faire de leurs interminables soirées, de nombreux Jordaniens guettent avec attention l'heure de la diffusion des feuilletons arabes à l'eau de rose que notre télévision nationale émet avec générosité depuis 29 ans.

Le sujet est toujours le même et tourne autour d'histoires d'amour, de la passion, du romantisme à l'oriental et du mariage idéal.

Si l'on considère à la façon de Balzac l'amour comme un art et non comme un simple sentiment, et si l'on admet la définition de Saint-Exupéry pour qui l'amour ne signifie pas se regarder l'un l'autre mais dans la même direction, on en conclut que pour une majorité de Jordaniens, l'amour ressemble à un fantôme dont tout le monde parle mais que personne ne voit.

Certes, il existe parmi les Jordaniens des personnes sensibles ressentant les mêmes sentiments que les autres êtres humains envers le sexe opposé. Une attitude qui débouche sur une véritable complicité dont le résultat logique doit être le mariage, à moins que la complexité et les traditions de notre société n'ayent ce rêve.

Il faut bien sûr prendre en considération le type même de notre société, à travers ses mœurs et ses obligations, qui ne permet pas d'avoir des relations entre hommes et femmes. Les jeunes traînent leur ennui, se fabriquent des sentiments dans leurs vies silencieuses et solitaires et vivent avec des créatures issues de leur imagination. Ils sont obligés de se diriger vers un mariage plus ou moins forcé, sans connaissances préalables, fondé uniquement sur le besoin et le hasard.

Ces différentes catégories représentent une certaine proportion de la population jordanienne, mais malheureusement pas la majorité.

Mais que signifie réellement l'amour dans une société où 30% des mariages se font entre cousins? Combien de diis « intellectuels » se marient avec une femme que ses parents ont choisie et dont ils ignorent l'existence? Combien de filles à peine sorties de l'enfance sont offertes comme bonnes à tout faire à des semi-grubataires dont seul le compte en banque se porte encore à merveille?

De quel amour parle-t-on lorsque la plus belle histoire d'amour se trouve entravée par le simple contre-avis d'une tante éloignée?

Combien de femmes instruites ont dû ranger, au nom de cet amour particulier, leurs diplômes avec les chiffons dans un tiroir de l'arrière-cuisine pour vivre en parfaite harmonie avec un atzaré qui ne manque pas un épisode de ces feuilletons télévisés? Et combien d'autres femmes intelligentes ont succombé dans la solitude pour refuser une vie conjugale préhistorique?

On parle peut-être de l'amour entre couples dont la femme est enfermée dans la cuisine, ne pouvant même pas regarder ces parodies romantiques à l'écran, et qui n'en sont que pour engraisser son mari.

Si la télévision nationale inonde les spectateurs de ces feuilletons dans un but pédagogique, le résultat est très décevant. La mentalité du Jordaniens semble au contraire se dégrader de jour en jour, et loin d'être attendri ou transformé, ce dernier s'éloigne peu à peu du comportement des maris exemplaires et civilisés qui lui voit à l'écran.

Suhail Al Sweis

La capitale jordanienne a connu un début de semaine agitée avec la tenue d'une foire exposition destinée à promouvoir les produits israéliens en Jordanie. Une manifestation qui, malgré un important mouvement de protestation, a ouvert ses portes mercredi dernier à une vingtaine de kilomètres au sud d'Amman, à Marj el Hamam.

Plus d'un millier de manifestants s'étaient réunis pour tenter d'empêcher l'inauguration de cette foire de quatre jours. Pour les contenir, de très importantes forces policières étaient présentes aux abords de la foire mais aussi sur les routes menant à Marj el Hamam, empêchant certains cars de manifestants de se rendre sur place.

Et vendredi, plusieurs milliers de manifestants étaient présents devant le hall d'exposition pour prier.

Au cours des trois dernières

semaines précédant cette foire, de nombreux syndicats et partis d'opposition avaient demandé l'annulation de cette manifestation. Un comité luttant contre cette foire avait d'ailleurs vu le jour, avec à sa tête Ahmad Obeidat, ancien Premier ministre jordanien. Un collectif au sein duquel on retrouvait beaucoup d'opposants à la normalisation avec Israël, mais aussi certaines personnalités qui, après avoir salué la signature du traité de paix avec Israël, demandent aujourd'hui au gouvernement jordanien de geler ses relations si la politique de Benjamin Netanyahu à l'égard des Palestiniens ne change pas.

La présence parmi les manifestants de représentants de 20 des 23 partis politiques jordaniens montre à quel point ce mouvement de mécontentement est large parmi la population. Les syndicats professionnels se sont montrés eux aussi très actifs pour relayer la grève de

leurs membres. Ainsi, le syndicat des ingénieurs, le plus puissant du pays, avait fait paraître à la une des plus grands quotidiens jordaniens des encarts dénonçant cette foire: « pas de normalisation avec les occupants. La Jordanie n'est pas le pont sioniste vers le monde arabe. Non à la foire israélienne d'Amman ». Le président du syndicat des ingénieurs, Leith Chbeilat, qui a été gracié le 14 novembre dernier par le roi Hussein alors qu'il purgeait une peine de trois ans de prison pour crime de lèse-majesté, a publiquement accusé le Premier ministre jordanien Abdel Karim Kabariti de « judaïser la Jordanie en lui imposant un programme sioniste ». Le syndicat des journalistes avait lui demandé à tous ses membres de boycotter cette foire en ne couvrant que les actions de protestation qui l'entouraient.

Depuis le début de la polémique, le gouvernement jordanien s'est contenté de déclarer qu'il n'avait légalement pas les moyens d'annuler cette manifestation qui émanait d'une initiative privée, celle de l'homme d'affaires Fakhri Nassar, directeur de la société d'organisation de foires nationales et internationales.

Quelques jours après la fin de cette exposition, la tension est largement retombée dans le pays. Manifestants et organisateurs de cette foire dressant un bilan. S'il est certain que cette manifestation a réussi à ouvrir ses portes, elle n'a pas connu le succès espéré. Sur les 200 entreprises israéliennes attendues, une soixantaine seulement étaient présentes, beaucoup ayant été dissuadées par le mouvement de protestation. Et les visiteurs

se faisaient étaient eux aussi assez rares dans les allées de l'exposition.

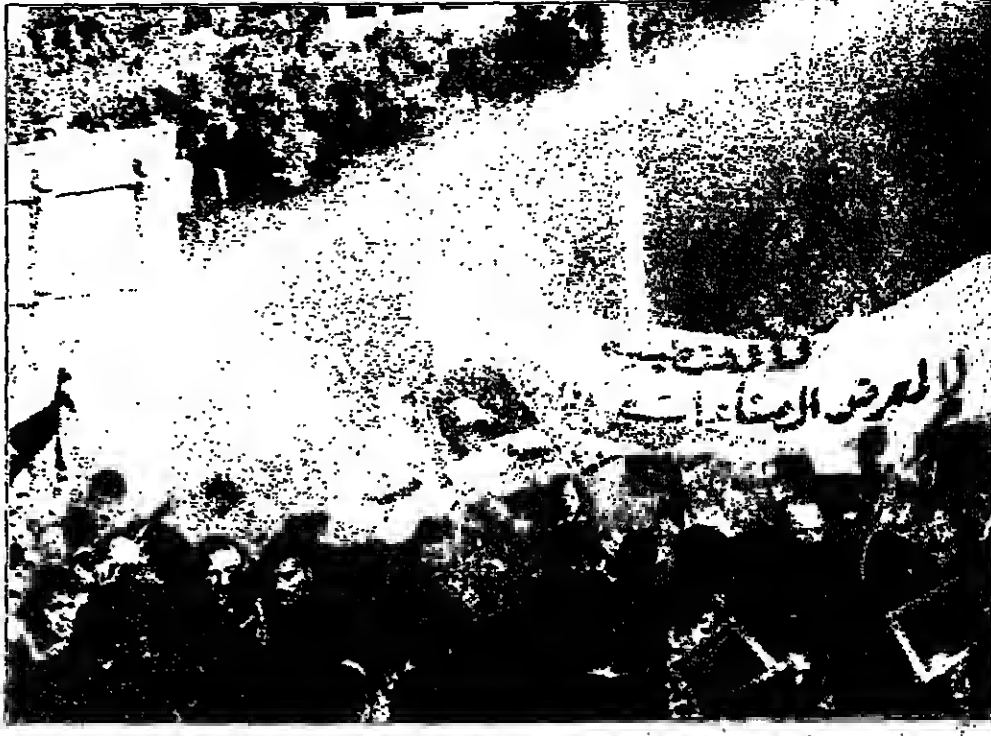
L'opposition se montre elle assez satisfaite. Elle n'a certes pas réussi à annuler l'organisation de cette foire. Mais elle a réussi à mobiliser la population et à organiser une manifestation qui était la plus importante depuis celles que la Jordanie a connues à l'époque de la guerre du Golfe. « Pour la première fois, le peuple a osé s'exprimer pour protester contre les décisions du gouvernement et surtout manifesté contre l'obstruction des Israéliens à propos des négociations de paix », a déclaré Leith Chbeilat.

Une pression populaire

Le large mouvement d'opposition qui a vu le jour pour lutter contre cette manifestation traduit l'incompréhension grandissante entre une partie de la population et le gouvernement jordanien. « C'est une campagne politique destinée à lutter contre la normalisation pressée du gouvernement », explique Nawaf Zaru, analyste politique. « Pourquoi leur donner des cadeaux alors que l'on ne reçoit rien en échange? », se demande-t-il.

Pour lui, « la foire a été une grande réussite pour l'opposition car elle a montré aux Israéliens que le gouvernement n'était pas le seul à décider en Jordanie et que Israël devait tenir compte de l'opposition et du peuple ».

Si le mouvement de protestation a été si fort, c'est parce que cette manifestation est intervenue à un moment où l'optimisme issu de la signature du traité de paix israélo-jordanien semble avoir disparu et où les négociations entre Israéliens et Palestiniens restent



Les forces de l'ordre jordanienne tentent de disperser le 8 janvier à l'aide de canons à eau les manifestants protestant contre l'organisation d'une foire israélienne à Amman.

dans l'impasse. « Le peuple de la région veut bien de la paix avec Israël. Mais il veut une paix qui respecte ses droits », commente Ghassan el Jundi, professeur de droit international et directeur de département de recherche à l'Institut diplomatique.

« N'ayant rien obtenu de cette paix, il est normal de voir le peuple protester contre la normalisation du gouvernement jordanien avec Israël », commente Ghazi El Saadi, spécialiste dans les relations israélo-jordanien. « La Jordanie a signé un accord avec Israël. Et elle se sent obligée de respecter les articles de l'accord,

à la différence de son homologue », explique Ghazi El Saadi. « Jusqu'à présent, elle se montre patiente car elle espère que le renforcement de ses relations avec Israël va améliorer l'économie du pays et les conditions de vie des citoyens. »

Or, cette position devient de plus en plus difficile à tenir pour le gouvernement jordanien qui ne peut rester neutre devant la politique intransigeante israélienne à l'égard du Liban ou des Palestiniens.

Largement mobilisée la semaine dernière, la population a clairement montré au gouvernement jordanien qu'elle souhaitait que celui-ci mette

désormais la pression sur Israël pour infléchir la politique nouvelle de Benjamin Netanyahu. Il est en effet difficile pour la population d'accepter la normalisation au moment où Israël multiplie les violations des accords de paix signés avec les Palestiniens.

Une des banderoles déroulées devant le hall d'exposition de Marj el Hamam illustre d'ailleurs ce décalage en faisant allusion à l'attentat commis par un Israélien le 2 janvier dernier: « Un massacre à Hébron et une exposition à Amman ».

Oroub el Abed



Face aux manifestants, les forces de sécurité chantaient des slogans à la gloire du roi Hussein.

Hébron

Le roi Hussein joue les médiateurs

Le roi Hussein de Jordanie a décidé dimanche d'aller rencontrer successivement Yasser Arafat et Benjamin Netanyahu pour tenter de débloquent les négociations israélo-palestiniennes. La formule de compromis proposée par le souverain hachémite a servi de base à la conclusion de l'accord sur Hébron signé mercredi avant l'aube.

On avait pensé que le Père-Noël pouvait offrir le cadeau d'un accord israélo-palestinien sur la question d'Hébron l'année dernière. Mais ce ne fut malheureusement pas le cas. Et l'année 97 commençait bien mal avec l'attentat du soldat israélien Noam Friedman qui ouvrait le feu sur des Palestiniens à Hébron le 2 janvier. La région connaît actuellement une nouvelle période spirituelle et tous se demandaient si le Ramadan pourrait offrir ce cadeau tant attendu. La réponse a été oui, dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi.

Pour tenter d'accélérer les négociations et d'aboutir enfin à la signature de l'accord sur Hébron, le roi Hussein de Jordanie avait décidé dimanche de franchir le Jourdain pour rencontrer successivement Yasser Arafat puis Benjamin Netanyahu. Au-delà des résultats immédiats de cette visite, l'initiative du souverain hachémite revêtait une importance significative dans les relations jordanien-palestiniennes. Certes, ce n'était pas la première fois que le roi Hussein se rendait dans les territoires occupés depuis les accords de paix de 1993. Voilà trois mois, il rencontrait Yasser Arafat à Jéricho. Mais sa visite officielle dimanche à Gaza, capitale provisoire de l'entité nationale palestinienne, a représenté pour les Palestiniens un soutien significatif. Cette reconnaissance jordanienne, répétée à plusieurs reprises, de l'identité palestinienne, dissipe tous les malentendus et les rumeurs d'une soit-disant volonté hégémonique jordanienne sur les territoires palestiniens.

Si la venue du roi Hussein n'a pas entraîné la signature immédiate de l'accord

d'Hébron, son rôle de médiateur a permis aux négociations de reprendre et d'aboutir 48 heures plus tard. Avant son arrivée, le médiateur américain Dennis Ross présent dans la région depuis trois semaines était, sur le point de rentrer aux Etats-Unis. Or ce dernier déclarait à la suite de la visite du roi Hussein que les deux parties « avaient jamais été aussi proches » d'un accord. Des propos optimistes partagés par le premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu qui parlait à l'issue de son entretien avec le roi Hussein de « progrès considérables » dans les négociations concernant l'après-Hébron.

De peur de voir les négociations stagner, le roi Hussein a souhaité de façon impromptue rencontrer les deux parties pour leur proposer une formule de compromis qui consiste en trois retraites israéliennes des zones rurales de Cisjordanie, des zones de 28 février 1997 et s'achevant à la mi-1998, al-



Le roi Hussein lors de son arrivée dimanche à Gaza.

ors que les accords de paix prévoyaient septembre 1997 et que M. Netanyahu voulait en retarder l'échéance jusqu'en 1999.

Suite à un ultime sommet mardi soir entre Yasser Arafat et Benjamin Netanyahu, les deux parties ont enfin bouclé l'accord concernant Hébron (voir encadré). Un accord qui reprend les propositions du roi Hussein puisque l'armée israélienne doit désormais procéder à trois retraites des zones rurales de Cisjordanie, des retraites qui devraient s'échelonner de mars 1997 à août 1998.

La signature de cet accord constitue le premier progrès concret du processus de paix israélo-palestinien depuis l'élection de Benjamin Netanyahu voilà sept mois et demi.

Un accord de bonne augure pour les négociations à venir en 1997.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

Société

Paroles de ramadan

Depuis maintenant une semaine, les musulmans de Jordanie et du monde entier sont entrés dans le mois de ramadan. Plusieurs pratiquants livrent leurs impressions.

Neuvième mois du calendrier musulman, le mois de ramadan est un mois de transformation pour les musulmans au cours duquel les âmes se purifient. Par la prière, les prières et la générosité, les fidèles se rapprochent de leur Dieu. Ce mois marqué par le jeûne de l'aube au coucher du soleil, troisième pilier de l'islam, bouleverse les habitudes des Jordaniens qui s'adaptent à une vie rythmée par les prières et les traditions.

Les musulmans sont appelés à prier cinq fois par jour pour obtenir le pardon de Dieu.

Après une journée de privation, les musulmans se retrouvent la plupart du temps en famille pour partager le repas du soir, l'iftar. Le ramadan est en effet une période pendant laquelle les liens familiaux et sociaux se resserrant énormément.

Plusieurs pratiquants livrent leurs réflexions sur la signification de ce mois et de ses rituels.

Mohammed Shaker. « Le mois de ramadan vient briser nos habitudes de l'année. On note des changements d'attitude chez tout le monde. Il y a une vie plus active dans les mosquées, les fidèles lisent plus le coran. On remarque aussi que plus de filles se voilent. »

Maher Noufale, étudiant. « C'est le meilleur mois de l'année. Les horaires de travail sont allégés et on peut passer plus de temps en famille. Les repas offerts aux pauvres dans les mosquées au par de nombreuses associations caritatives sont des actes de solidarité indispensables qui devraient durer toute l'année. »

Lara, chercheuse. « Je regrette que ce mois soit devenu trop commercial. Certaines traditions se perdent ou fil des années, comme celle du coup de canon le soir ou celle du

« réveil » le matin pour le premier repas. Ce mois permet d'être plus à l'écoute des problèmes des autres et encourage le partage et la générosité. »

Cheikh Kamal Kamel, imam. « Pendant le ramadan, j'appelle les fidèles à partager. On reçoit de nombreux dons de nourriture et il faut organiser leur distribution. Nous recueillons les aumônes jusqu'au dernier moment du ramadan, avant la prière de l'aïd. »

Dr Mustapha Al Sibai. « Le ramadan est un mois de vérité, de pardon et de soutien. Un

mois spirituel pendant lequel on se consacre au travail. Un mois d'obéissance et de discipline envers Dieu. »

Eissa Al Najjar. « Je suis satisfait de la fermeture des bars et des boîtes de nuit pendant le ramadan car l'alcool est interdit. Cela doit être un mois de pureté. Mais les gens ont aujourd'hui tendance à exagérer et à le transformer en mois de dépenses, achetant notamment beaucoup pour manger le soir. »

Chéhid Abdallah

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

Cycle Philippe Noiret au Centre culturel français.

Le 20 janvier à 20h30, « La vie et rien d'autre » de Bertrand Tavernier (1989).



Exposition

« L'Institut du monde arabe », à partir du 20 janvier. Dans quelques mois, l'Institut du monde arabe accueillera à Paris une exposition consacrée à la Jordanie et ses richesses archéologiques. Le Centre culturel français vous propose de découvrir cet endroit créé pour assurer une meilleure diffusion de la culture arabe en Europe.

Conférence

« De la décolonisation aux autoroutes de l'information: les enjeux de la francophonie » par Jean-Marc Mangiante, directeur du Bureau de coopération linguistique et éducative d'Amman. Le 22 janvier à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.

كنا من العرب

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	699238
French Cultural Centre	6361478	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858	Sports Clubs	
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
Raya Arts Centre	665195	Orthodox Club	810491
Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Dar al Funun	664251	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Alia Art Gallery	643252	Royal Chess Club	673713
Saladina Art Gallery	639303	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	657132	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155	Amman Mun. Library	636111
		Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
		R.S.C.N.	837931/837937



To book your Advertisement Graphic and Designs on the Electronic Sign Boards on the 10th floor of SAFEWAY Bldg. ESHNANA Center - Jabal Alhussein & DOWNTOWN call 680367

Government Depts.

The Prime Ministry	641211	Labour	698186
Amman Greater Municipality	636111	Municipalities & Environment	641393
Agriculture	686151	Parliamentary Affairs	641211
Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
Culture / Jabal Amman	636391	Post & Communications	624301
Education & Higher Education	669181	Public Health	665131
Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
Foreign Affairs	644361	Supplies	602121
Industry & Trade	663191	Tourism & Antiquities	642311
Information	641467	Transport	641461
Interior Ministry	663111	Water & Irrigation	680100
Justice	663101	Youth / University	604701

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	673246/7
Austrian	644635
Bahraini	664148/9
Belgian	642183
Bulgarian	675683
Canadian	818131
Chilean	823360
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677559
Czech	671813/666135
Danish Consulate Gen.	603703
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	671331/2
Hungarian	815614
Icelandic Consulate	698851
Indian	637262
Indonesian	828911
Iraqi	639331
Italian	638185
Japanese	672486/7
Kuwaiti	673135/8
Libyan	693101/3
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
New Zealand Consulate	636720
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Embassy	644932/4
Omani	686155
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	682666
Romanian	667738
Russian	641158
Saudi Arabian	814154/6
Slovenia Honorary Cons.	861542
Sri Lanka	683903/704960
South Korean	660745/6
South Africa	811194
Spanish	614166/9
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Taiwan	671530
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
U.A.E.	643347/643341
United Kingdom	823100
United States	820101
Yemen	642381
EEC Delegation	668191
ESCWA	694351/8
ICRC	688645
UNDP/WFP	668171/7
UNRWA	607398
UNICEF	629571
UNESCO	606559

Airlines

Adria Airways	667029
Aeroflot	641510
Aeromexico	694802
Air Canada	630879
Air France	666055/667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140
Alitalia	625203
Alyemda (Air yemen)	635691
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	693845/694604
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Midland	694802
British Airways	628801
Cathay Pacific	628596
China Airlines	625232
Cyprus Airways	667028
Delta Air Lines	643661
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	643341
Gulf Air	633613
Hungarian Airlines	622275
Iberia	637827/644036
Iran Air	622826
Japan Airlines	630879
KLM	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
MEA	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
Philippine Airlines	640200
PIA	625981
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	862288
Royal Jordanian	678321
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604499
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	694501
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
Syrian Air	622147
United Airlines	641959
US Air	694801/2
TAROM - Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	637195
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200

Important Numbers

Emergencies	
Police	192/621111
Civil Defence H.Q.	193/198/199
Fire Brigade	622090/93
Ambulance	199
Blood Bank	775121
Traffic Police	625943/639703
Traffic Accidents	897467/8
Highway Police	787111
Hospitals	
Al-Hil Maternity	643441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	77511/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Al-Hil Hospital	674155
Army, Marka	891611/15
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Italian Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaled Maternity	642816/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Queen Alia Hospital	602340/50
Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
University Hospital	845845
General	
Amman Municipality	843402
Electricity Complaints	121
Prices Complaints	666181
Hotel Complaints	08/53200
Water Complaints	896390
Water Complaints	656390/91
Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Post Office Info.	750981/23
Telephone Information	121

BUSINESSMAN GUIDE

Comfort
Hotel Suites
Luxury Tel
Comfort
Service
Location
In the heart of Sweifyeh

Ammon
SHIPPING & TRANSPORT
AIRFREIGHT ?
SEA FREIGHT ?
PACKING ?
TRAVELLING ?
Let us handle it

Pizza Hut
World's No. 1 Pizza Chain
"Pizza Hut offers our beloved children a Free Exciting Gift with every kid's meal"
"Choose one of the many Exciting Gifts available now at Pizza Hut"

Many Villas & Apartments
Furnished and Unfurnished for Rent & Sale
For more information please call
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605-810609
865605. Fax: 810520
Abdoun, Almuhsin Center.

THE BEST MUSIC STORE
FREDDY FOR MUSIC
A NAME THAT YOU TRUST
TEL: 691596
CARDENS ST

HOSPITALITY
A SECURE HOTEL
Sweifyeh
Fully Serviced Suites
A/C in Grand Hotel Suite 1

ALCAZAR HOTEL
True Vacations come to live in our
Uniquely Moorish Style Hotel
our sea star diving center will unravel the secrets of the Red Sea to your wildest imagination
Tel: 314131/2

TO GET BETTER FURNITURE.....
FOR YOUR OFFICE OR HOUSE....
JUST VISIT
Tel: 666705

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...
Amman Tel: 607193
P.O. Box 9403 Fax 602434
Telex 23888 Darouf Jo
Ideal Residence for Expatriates and Businessmen

ORLANE Beauty Institute
Facials
Body skin treatment
Make-up
European manicures & pedicures
Smeisani
Tel: 693399

Make Car Rental Simple
Smeisani
Tel: 693399

We save you more
The most pleasurable shopping experience...
Tel: 81452

To Advertise in this space, call us at 652-380

Café Restaurant
Different Experience

Funny Bunny
THE BIGGEST THE MOST DELICIOUS AND CERTAINLY THE BEST HAMBURGER IN TOWN
Burger, Knish, Chicken
Almoudiah, Almuhsin St.
Tel: 815279

THE SECRET UNFOLDS
NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30p.m. 7:00-Midnight
Tel 638968

AQABA GULF HOTEL
Your first choice in Aqaba
For reservations call (03) 316636
Fax (03) 318246

JR - SAT
Walid Jarrar Co.
Safeway-Tel: 685311

The Best PIZZA in Jordan
To Advertise in this space, call us at 652-380

PIZZAS, SNACKS, CAKES
Smeisani Tel: 693399

KAIS CENTRE FOR QUICK SERVICES
Professional Drycleaning
Shoes Repair
Darning
Engraving
Upholstery & Carpet Cleaning
Al-Jaber & Housing Bank Shopping Centers
Tel: 679947 & 821656

The German Fashion House
Boutiques Harman & Harman
Tel: 821656

JOSEPH JANARD
wille BIG SIZES
Al-Jaber Shopping Center, Mecca St. Phone: 821656 & 814714

CARRIAGE CARRIAGE
Rent a Car
Wasfi Al-Tal St.
Tel: 695180
Fax: 682525

Barakeh Auto Service Center
we offer:-
Computerized Engine Check
Electro Mechanical car check
Automatic & Manual car wash services
wheel balance maintenance
Oil Change
Wasfi Al-Tal St. Tel: 685454 Fax: 682525

ARABESQUE CAFE
Not all "cafe's" are created equal
A Touch Of Class In True Arabian Style
AL-Shmeisani, Near Ata Ali, Middle East Bank Bldg. Tel: 698005
The Place For Finest Arabic Setting
Close Enough To Get Away From It All

THE STAR'S WORKSTATION

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Have you noticed?
Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line service. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for the topics.
Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star-NETS.com.J
We and our readers want to know them.

Web continues its march across the Middle East

By Khaldoon Tabaza

THERE IS no doubt that 1996 was the Year of the Net.

The 'Net' proved, by solid evidence and experience, that if ever there was a single function for which computers were created, this is it.

The value of the Net lies in the fact that it provides computer users everywhere with the information they desire at any time. This information ranges from topics as specialized as nuclear technology to entertainment and coverage of the latest world news.

Still, the Net is a colossal leviathan that needs a continuous feed of information and tools. Content is what keeps it alive. With the right tools it is destined to rule our lives.

This Net could not be contained in labs and under guards and security. It was born in such places, but then it was discovered that it also lives by being shared and expanded. Soon after this was realized, and almost overnight, the whole world woke up to witness the rise of a new sun, a new universe. We called it Cyberspace, or the Information super highway.

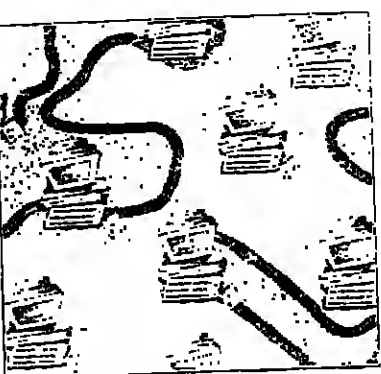
For the Middle East, the rise of the Internet offered new opportunities and hopes.

Access to the Internet content dealing with all fields of human experiences gives us, for the first time, the hope and the opportunity of catching up with the 'developed world'. We have the opportunity to add our unique touch to the new Net culture, and to become equal 'netizens' along with the rest of the world. From the

beginning, all but the ignorant saw the potential. Along with the rest of the world, Arab computer users started to develop standards that fit the unique characteristics of our language. Many started developing Internet tools in the Arabic language. At the worldwide level, to embrace the Net—or not to embrace it—became a crucially important question. Arabs were

Since the beginning of this new age, it was discovered that more than a mere increase in equipment will be required to root the elements of this new world order in the Middle East.

Machines and equipment are useless without the software to process and analyze. Thus, investment in the Arab knowledge pool becomes very necessary, to nourish the minds of our programs, and help those who are already in college to prepare for the future challenges. Thanks to the Net and its resources, this hope seems closer to reality than ever before.



On the Net, things develop at an incredible speed. It is truly the world of the fast, fluid and flexible. Old ideas do not hang around very long. The slow, stubborn, and stupid willer and die.

The challenges posed by the Net are larger than any classification. They are not only of an economic nature, they are also cultural, political, and educational.

As the use of the Internet increases in this region, governments will discover that old macroeconomic fiscal policies do not apply to the new sectors that are based on producing and processing digital content. So far, high taxes, bureaucracy, lack of an adequate legal structure, and a fragile telecommunications infrastructure, have been an impediment to the progress of computer software companies.

A look at how the Internet started in the West will give us a better model to emulate if we desire to have our own success story. The Internet started out as a government project. The main result of that was a mas-

sive network where economies of scale abound. Thus, cheaper prices were possible when commercial use was allowed. With the potentially massive markets of the Arab world, it is very possible that a pan-Arab private initiative, backed by governments, would produce the same results. That support is not necessarily, or exclusively, financial. Support could be in the form of easing bureaucratic pressures, providing deregulation and privatization of the telecommunications sector, and increasing the awareness of the Arab population at large.

The censorship issue has been a tough one almost since the inception of the Net. In the Middle East, known for its conservative moral structure and ethical standards, this issue has very close to home. Many have concluded that the Internet needs to be censored, limited, and curbed. But as was proven, the Net cannot be contained. The efforts to limit it are doomed to fail. Instead, the Internet needs to be sustained. It should be used to promote our

Local software house gives new meaning to the word progress: ProgressSoft shows its 'wares'

By Zeid Nasser
Star Staff Writer

PROGRESSOFT, A Jordan-based software company, is making its presence felt in the region, following many years of hard work that have produced outstanding products and innovations.

An experienced team of engineers, who first started out delivering Information Technology solutions, were led by market developments to incorporate their knowledge into software-based solutions.

The result has been a host of impressive products such as PS-Term, PS-Sig, PS-Image, PS-Forms and more.

PS-Term is a terminal emulation software that offers multi-lingual functionality and provides a variety of features, that position it among the best packages of its type. Terminal emulation is a software technology that offers complete terminal functionality, on a personal computer platform, therefore doing away with the proprietary dummy terminals normally used in large corporations. As part of a terminal emulation technology, these personal computers are effectively linked to all sorts of mainframe and minicomputer systems. Providing complete Arabization, PS-Term offers Arabic

pull-down menus and efficient Arabic printing facilities.

"PS-Term has been a success with installations in key banks in Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, in addition to other major commercial sites in

gressSoft much acclaim for its ease-of-use, due to its GUI, and owing to the fact that it is a platform and database independent system. Here lies one of PS-Sig's main strengths, as it can run with any operating system, under any platform.

"PS-Sig is attracting a lot of attention, and we've got major clients all over the region already benefitting from its flexibility," commented Mr. Wakileh.

Other products from ProgressSoft include PS-Image, an Arabic/Latin document archiving and management system, and PS-Forms, an Arabic/Latin forms processing software.

All in all, ProgressSoft's commitment to provide quality products, in crucial categories has earned the company a respectable position in many parts of the Middle East. Now, ProgressSoft look towards more aggressive marketing to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and plans are underway to take on major projects in countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

For more information on ProgressSoft, contact Mr. Michael Wakileh on telephone number (962 6) 703820, fax (962 6) 690564 or email ps@gom.com.jo.



Yemen, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Iraq and other countries," said Mr. Michael Wakileh, executive manager at ProgressSoft.

"We have found that there is much appreciation for the innovations that PS-Term and our products offer in general," he added. "This presents definite proof that software developers based in Jordan have much to offer in the region's leading markets, and possibly even beyond."

PS-Term is available for Windows 3.x, Windows 95, Windows NT and DOS. The DOS version incorporates a graphical user interface (GUI), putting it ahead of its competitors.

Another major product from ProgressSoft is PS-Sig, a Signature Verification system primarily targeted at the banking sector. PS-Sig has given Pro-

countries is one third of the per capita income in the United States.

Again, the Western model would serve us very well in this respect. The Internet is a very powerful embodiment of the law of nature. The rapid pace by which information on it is exchanged threatens the very structure of societies and economies that fail to adjust to it. The Net has erased any feelings of isolation among economic or political entities and the world is becoming one big sublimity village.

16-Speed CD-ROM drive from Hitachi

HITACHI HAS announced that it will launch the fastest CD-ROM drive ever, providing 16 times speed. Compared to the standard on the market today, which is 8 times speed CD-ROM drives, this product will be revolutionary. It will take multimedia PCs several steps ahead, in handling complex graphics and sounds that require constant, fast, data reading. The drive will appear in the first half of 1997.



British teams' new lure for fans: Shares of stock

By Fred Barbash
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LONDON—When one of Britain's most beloved soccer managers abruptly resigned Wednesday, it was easily the biggest story of the day in Britain—the stuff of news flashes on television and front-page stories in every national paper. The man is worshipped.

More intriguingly, the resignation of Kevin Keegan from Newcastle United was also the biggest story in the City—London's equivalent of Wall Street—and there was nearly as much armchair commentary from stock market analysts as from sportswriters.

It highlighted the hottest trend in the business of sports here and one of the hottest in investing: soccer teams going public, taking their place and their chances on the stock market—a rare phenomenon among sports teams in the United States. As a result, while most people who follow Britain's most popular sport still want to know whether their team won, increasing numbers also want to know if the team is outperforming the market.

Newcastle United, following the example of 10 other big-time teams, is scheduled to begin selling stock this spring. And while some people wanted to know how Keegan's departure might affect the team's play, others were equally concerned about its impact on the potential share price.

As a matter of fact, the listed teams are doing considerably better than the rest of the market here, and that feeds the investment fever. By some reckonings, the value of an average share in a soccer team rose by 189 percent last year, compared with 11 percent for the market as a whole. Last year, the *Financial Times* reported recently, "will go down as the year the City fell in love with football—not as a sport, but as an investment."

The trend is a sharp departure from the long traditions of soccer here—where, as in most of the world, it is known as football. Like professional teams in the United States, many British soccer teams were



once the playthings of wealthy and sometimes flamboyant businessmen or were maintained by loyal local boosters. Most of the country's 90-odd professional teams still are. But at the top of the heap—the Premier League of the nation's 20 best teams—public ownership is all the rage. The reason, as with all market-related matters, is money. A team can raise tens of millions of dollars by selling shares to an eager public, money that owners would otherwise have to take out of their own pockets or borrow or raise privately from other rich people. In recent years, the skyrocketing price of players and the desire for fancy new stadiums have increased drastically the amounts that owners must invest.

Newcastle United, which recently paid a record \$22 million for a single player, hopes to raise roughly \$250 million by selling stock. In the Premier League, there is also more money to be made than ever before, thanks in no small measure to the same man who purchased much of the television rights to the National Football League, media magnate Rupert Murdoch. His Sky Sports network has bought the rights to televise Premier League soccer, pumping millions into the sport. Pay-per-view games also are likely

to debut in Britain soon, courtesy of Murdoch, and are expected to produce even more revenue for the teams, as will promotional deals with sporting goods companies, the beverage industry and other businesses seeking to identify with Britain's most watched game. The kick that soccer is giving the stock market began quickly in 1983, when London's Tottenham Hotspur went public. In the last two years, it became a craze, with teams from Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and other places joining the pack. Five or six other teams, including Newcastle, are planning stock sales, and new sports investment groups are cropping up. "The other teams are waking up," said Guy Feld, a football analyst at the UBS investment firm.

Feld wondered if investor-owned teams would be as successful in the United States, where fans' interests and loyalties are divided among several big-league sports. The risk may be greater here. Soccer teams drop in and out of the Premier League, depending on their performance. If they do badly, they are relegated to lower-level, and less lucrative, divisions, while another team is elevated. The worst thing that could happen to a soccer stock, Feld said, would be such relegation—which would dras-

cally reduce television revenue. In the United States, few teams are publicly traded. Shares in the Florida Panthers hockey team and the Boston Celtics in basketball are bought and sold on the stock market. A few other teams are publicly traded as part of the larger corporations that own them, such as the Mighty Ducks, a hockey team owned by the Walt Disney Co., and the California Angels, a baseball team that has a 25 percent interest in the National Football League does not permit teams to issue stock.

What impact on the field of play has yet to be determined, although some reports here say that Keegan's resignation is one of the first effects. The *Times* of London reported that Keegan had planned on quitting for some time to pursue other interests, and bankers advising the team on its stock issue recently advised the club that there was legal danger in failing to disclose Keegan's plans in the coming prospectus—the informational statement required when a company goes public.

If he intended to step down, he had to do so now, they reportedly told Keegan. He went—with no public explanation.

Hingis is lauded for her normalcy

By Julie Cart
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

UNEXPECTED SURPRISES on the women's tennis tour usually involve unearthed arrest records or the publication of compromising photographs. It is in this context that the blossoming of Martina Hingis as the sport's next star has been greeted with a collective sigh from tennis executives. At last, a well-adjusted tennis player.

Hingis, who just turned 16, is newsworthy not only for her remarkable rise in the rankings—starting 1996 at No. 20 and ending at No. 4—but also because she's an adolescent who's so relentlessly normal.

Teenage burnout is an established pattern in women's tennis, and so far, despite an ambitious schedule, the Swiss player has avoided it. A more accurate test of Hingis' mental and physical durability began Monday, with the start of another tennis season at the Australian Open.

In October 1994, Hingis and former Californian Venus Williams took advantage of a closing window of opportunity to turn pro at 14, causing a mighty backlash and a torrent of cradle-robbing criticism.

The tour cringed, already sensitive to the charge and familiar with the pattern. Women's tennis laments its teenagers professionally, then observes their progress from behind spread fingers. Even the most optimistic waited for the inevitable embarrassment.

It didn't come from the youngsters, though. In fact, Hingis was voted most impressive newcomer her first year on tour. Then last season, she punctuated her rise by taking Steffi Graf to five sets before losing in the final of the Chase Championships in New York. She also became the youngest tennis player, male or female, to earn \$1 million in prize money.

Hingis is not a success story measured by accomplishments, so much as by what she has not done. She hasn't blown up. Hingis' arrival as a pro set off all the usual alarm bells, because not only was she an accomplished junior player with a surprisingly mature game, but she was also coached by her mother. A "tennis parent," observers hissed, as if a truly well-balanced tennis player could only spring immaculately conceived from a Florida academy.

In the weird reasoning of teen tennis, a prodigy's projected success is gauged in inverse proportion to the profile held by the child's parents. From the first moment that Jim Pierce bellowed instructions to his daughter to "kill" her opponent—it was understood that he wasn't kidding—Mary Pierce's career has been speeding headlong into a blind curve.

In the same way, the fact that few on

tour have ever met Lindsay Davenport's parents is seen as assurance that whatever her on-court fortunes, she will at least remain a "normal human" off it.

Melanie Hingis Zogg put a tennis racket in her daughter's hand when the girl was only 2, and put her in tournaments at 6. Although now a Swiss citizen, Martina was born in Kosice, in what was then Czechoslovakia, and her future was



ordained when she was named—even before she was born—after another famous Czech tennis star, Martina Navratilova. After she turned pro, the tennis world waited for the horror stories to seep out about parental abuse, but none did. Hingis appeared to be well brought up and well coached. There was minor criticism about Hingis' powder puff first serve, but Melanie Zogg defused it by saying her daughter was too young to begin a weightlifting program to develop her shoulder.

If Hingis bridges under her mother's tutelage, there is no outward evidence of it. They are inseparable on tour. Martina customarily refers to her mother as, "My coach, my mother and my best friend."

Melanie Zogg has a simple philosophy. "Yes, I am Martina's coach, but I am also her mother," she says. "There is only one way: I am always with her for as long as she is young, trying to keep everything normal."

An accomplished junior player herself, Zogg alone coaches her daughter. Hingis worked briefly with Brad Gilbert at the end of last year. The sport's newest guru was helpful, Hingis said, but his suggestions only served to reinforce her belief in the correctness of her mother's teachings.

"Everything he said, she has already told me," Hingis said. "That tells me my mother is a good coach."

Even with the physical maturation she has undergone in her two years on tour, Hingis still does not lift weights and trains only 1 1/2 hours a day. She is encouraged to participate in other sports, and she skis, plays soccer and basketball and runs with her German shepherd.

Her game is developing into a fascinating blend of baseline prowess and spins, slices and a deadly drop shot. Hingis is tactically years ahead of her peers, fearless on court and moves with the light feet of a dancer.

Hingis, on the other hand, is still a kid just out of braces. Perhaps it is her age that has brought out the big-sister benevolence rarely seen on tour. Hingis has been the object of an unusual number of compliments. And the players offering them appear to be sincere.

Graf, from whom compliments seldom flow, has been generous about Hingis' future.

"It's a very talented, intelligent game she's playing out there," Graf said. "She knows exactly what to do. She is very quick, takes the pace for the opponent, plays sharp angles. No matter how hard you play her, she takes your speed and hits with incredible depth. Her down-the-lines are probably the best in tennis. You don't see a lot of players play that kind of game."

Monica Seles, who suffered her worst professional loss at the hands of Hingis in the final at Oakland, Calif., last November, said, "She has an unbelievable sense of the court, and she is very mature. There's no doubt about it, she's going to be a force in women's tennis."

Hingis has already experienced the dizzying arc that can be traced by a career in the public eye. Exploration of her private life has also gone from the hackneyed Swiss-miss puff pieces to the more probing sort.

Stories are emerging about her father, about whom little is known. Swiss newspapers recently reported Karol Hingis is living in near poverty in Slovakia, earning \$200 a month as the caretaker of a tennis facility. Melanie Hingis Zogg reportedly recently sent a letter to her ex-husband, informing him that his child support checks would no longer be needed.

There are reports too, that the marriage between Melanie Hingis and the rarely seen Swiss computer specialist Andreas Zogg is all but finished. She has been traveling in the company of a Swiss sports writer, who has told colleagues that he's considering quitting his newspaper job to manage Hingis' career. Denials to the contrary, the journalist is a fixture in the friends' box when Hingis plays, sitting behind Melanie Zogg, furiously taking notes.

As scandals go, Hingis herself is still a lightweight. The worst about her at the moment is that she's gaining a reputation as a thrower of both rackets and tantrums. How she manages to behave with such petulance and still remain so likable is part of her appeal.

The

Obscure into

By Raed Al Abed

ALTHOUGH the world has been through negotiations and peace talks, and the Middle East is still a hotbed of conflict, the Arab world is beginning to see a new era of peace and stability. The Arab world is beginning to see a new era of peace and stability. The Arab world is beginning to see a new era of peace and stability.

On the 16th of January, the Arab world is beginning to see a new era of peace and stability. The Arab world is beginning to see a new era of peace and stability. The Arab world is beginning to see a new era of peace and stability.

Sudan r inroads

By John Danisewski

CAIRO—Sudanese forces have made significant gains in the north, pushing back the Eritrean and Ethiopian invaders. The Sudanese forces have made significant gains in the north, pushing back the Eritrean and Ethiopian invaders. The Sudanese forces have made significant gains in the north, pushing back the Eritrean and Ethiopian invaders.

Rum

By Lee Hockstad

MOSCOW—It's the top of Moscow's most cherished dream for a long time. The Russian people are dreaming of a new era of peace and stability. The Russian people are dreaming of a new era of peace and stability. The Russian people are dreaming of a new era of peace and stability.

Under a front-page headline, "Yeltsin Welcomes the Daily Telegraph Report," the Russian people are dreaming of a new era of peace and stability. The Russian people are dreaming of a new era of peace and stability. The Russian people are dreaming of a new era of peace and stability.

كانا من اول